ENGLAND'S Interest Asserted IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF ITS NATIVE COMMODITIES; And more especially the Manufacture of WOOL:

Plainly shewing its Exportation Un-manufactured, amounting unto Millions of Loss to His MAJESTY, and Kingdom.

With some Brief Observations of that worthy Author Sir *WALTER RAWLEY*, touching the same.

All Humbly presented to His MAJESTY, and Both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

By a true Lover of His Majesty, and Native Country.

Licensed by *Roger L'estrange*.

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UMI

Englands Glory.

BY THE Benefit of *Wool* Manufactured therein, from the *Farmer* to the *Merchant*; and the *Evil* Conſequences of its Exportation Unmanufactured.

Briefly Hinted,
With Submiſſion to better Judgments.

THere is no King nor Prince in the World, known by experience, or upon Record, that hath ſuch means to ſupport their Splendour and Greatneſs as his Majeſty of great *Britain*, nor has any Country or Nation ſuch variety of ſtaple Commodities within it ſelf, and in ſuch abundance, as hath the King[illegible] of *England*, which are ſaid by ſome to be a Hundred Native Commodities, which produceth a Thouſand ſorts of Manufactures: So that if thoſe advantages were duly improved,

proved, *England* might be a general Mart for the whole World, and then by conſequence be the glory thereof. That thoſe advantages are not improved is too too obvious to all that look into it, by the ſore complaints that are frequently made of the great poverty and decay thereof; and indeed (which is worſt of all) by that general deſperation of ſpirit which will not put forth a hand to help, ſupport, or prevent the total deſolation of our Country, upon a prepoſſeſt opinion, that all endeavours will be rendred fruitleſs and abortive.

The conſideration whereof hath greatly prompted me (who muſt confeſs my ſelf the meaneſt of Thouſands more concerned) to uſe the utmoſt of my little skill, and unwearied diligence (though but as the Womans mite) to the right management of ſo great an undertaking; that the threatned ruine of all may be prevented, and (if poſſible) ſome good part of what is loſt may be recovered. And whereas many have taken in hand to ſet forth theſe things, ſome treating of one thing, and other of another, which if all was collected and harmonized, it might very much conduce to the promoting of this weighty affair, of ſo publick a value: I ſhall confine my ſelf to thoſe things only, whereof I have had not only credible information, but a conſiderable (though a ſad) experimental knowledge; and in a more particular and eſpecial manner that of *Wool*, and of its Manufacture and Conſequences, which amongſt many, is the Richeſt Treaſure in his Majeſties Dominions, the flower, ſtrength, and ſinews of this Nation; a Land uniting the People into Societies, for their own Utility; it is the Milk and Honey to the Grazier and Country Farmer; the Gold and Spices of the Eaſt and Weſt *Indies* to the Merchant, and Citizens, the continued ſupply of Bread to the Poor: and in a word, the Exchequer of wealth, and ſtaple of protection to the whole, both abroad and at home; and therefore of full merit to be had in perpetual remembrance, defence, and encouragement for the moſt advantageous improvement thereof.

The *Wools* of *England* (before it was manufactured within it ſelf) have ever been of great account and eſteem abroad, ſufficiently teſtified unto, by the great amity, which it begat, and for many Hundred Years (inviolably) maintained, between the King of *England* and Dukes of *Burgundy*, only for the great benefit, that (from

that

that Commodity) did accrew to that People, insomuch that the *English* Wools, they receiv'd at 6 *d.per* Pound, they returned again (through their industrious manufacture thereof) in Cloth, at 10 *s. per* Yard, to the great inriching of that State, both in the advancement of the Revenues of their Soveraign, and in a full employment (thereby) continued among the People; whereby the Merchants of this Nation were occasioned, (as a People unwilling to be wholly disprivileged of so great a benefit) to transport themselves (with their Families (in great numbers) into *Flanders*, from whence they held a constant Commerce with most parts of the World; this continued without intermission, between *England* and *Burgundy*, until King *Edward* the 3*d.* made his mighty Conquests over *France*, & *Scotland*, and as a suitable improvement of so great a mercy, did wisely project, and also accomplish the manufacture of Wools within the Bowels of this Kingdom, to the great inriching of his own People, and also to the Peopling of his new Conquered Dominions; the memory of whose wisdome and care for his People, is worthy to be had in remembrance by *English* Men, unto the Worlds end.

The said King having thus setled the manufacture of Wools within the Kingdom of *England*, confined it by a penal Statute, which (at first) reached not only to Goods, Chattels, and Land, but also to Members, and Life it self; but in a short time repealed the two latter thereof, continuing the other in its full force to remain to future Generations: which exceeding great advantage to the prosperity of the *English* Trade, hath now continued these ThreeHundred Years, by the vigilancy of the Kingdoms Monarchs, and the protection of its Laws, in the continued careful execution thereof upon offenders, with more than a little diligence to provide against the thirsting desires of Foreiners to wrest this Native priviledge (of so great a moment) out of *English* hands, which by the providence of God (through the great care of our Ancestors) has been (for many Ages) enjoyed by the Nation, as it is indeed its proper right: But so it is, that (for some years past) the diligence of Foreiners, to enrich themselves upon us, has so much exceeded our care to preserve our selves, that it's now come to, if not beyond a question, Who have the greatest benefit of the manufacture of *English* Wools, they who have no right unto it, or they to whom of right it doth belong? That

That this is indeed ſo, will appear, by conſidering that not only *Holland*, *Flanders*, and *Zealand* have long ſucked the ſweetneſs of the ſinews of our Trade; but *France* is likewiſe learning to be too hard for us, as is manifeſt by the great quantities of Wools, that (of late years) have been tranſported from *England* and *Ireland* thither; how injurious it muſt be to us, is alſo unqueſtionable, if we conſider the conſequence thereof, which was (without queſtion) much in the Eye of our Anceſtors, as appeares by what is above hinted in *Edward* the 3*ds* time, and in ſeveral Kings Reigns ſince.

Every Pack of Wool ſent to *France*, doth prevent us (not only) of the benefit of the manufacture thereof, but of two Packs more beſides it ſelf, *viz.* Thus, it being combing, and combed Wool (for the moſt part) exported thither, the *French* (having no Wools of their own, but ſuch as are very courſe) are not able to make Cloth, or fine Stuff, without the conjunction of ours therewithall; there being none (to my beſt information) fit for that purpoſe in all the World, but ours only, all other being likewiſe courſe, but *Spaniſh*, and that much too fine (eſpecially for Worſted Stuffs, and not in any wiſe fit for combing; ſo that without *Engliſh* or *Iriſh* Wools there can be no fine Worſted Stuffs, nor a middle ſort of Cloth made, in the whole World; neither will any Wools be well mixed together, but *Engliſh* and *Spaniſh*, (only for Cloth) becauſe the *Spaniſh* is with the *Engliſh* of one nature, being formerly *Engliſh* Sheep, though now much finer, from the alteration of the Climate, and the nature of the Land whereon it is fed, as by good experience appeareth here in *England*, both neer, and at a farther diſtance.

Wherefore the exportation of *Engliſh* Wools into *France* muſt of neceſſity be greatly prejudicial to this Nation, not only in the quantity ſent over, but alſo in the advantage which is thereby given them to manufacture a double portion of their own Wool, (which formerly was little worth) into ſuch commodities, as ſpoyls us of the advantage of our proper Trade, not only thither, but alſo into other parts, *viz.* in theſe three reſpects.

Firſt, The combed of the *Engliſh* Wool makes Wooffe for the Warpes of the *French* Wool, and ſo takes up (it may be) as much as the quantity above ſpecified, to every Pack of *Engliſh* Wool, with-

without which, they can (only) with their Wool make Rugs, and at the beſt, Cloth for Sea-men, and the like.

2*dly*. Their combings or pinnions, *viz*. the ſhort Wool that's combed out of the Worſted, ſerves for their Linnen warp to make ſome of their Druggets, becauſe their Linnen being fine ſpun, and coloured, is not diſcernable to all Perſons, to be that we call *Linſie Woolſie*.

3*dly*. The fineſt ſhort *Engliſh* Wool is mixed with the loweſt of *Spaniſh* Wool, called ſhort Wool, for ſome of their beſt Druggets, that is woove for Worſted Chanies, and alſo for a middle ſort of Broad-cloth, about 10 *s*. or 12 *s*. *per* Yard. This is the cauſe (I judg) that ſhort *Spaniſh* Wool is ſo ſcarce here in *England*.

Now if we conſider theſe things together, the dammage of the exporting of this one Pack from *England* to *France*, at about 10 *l*. or 12 *l*. Sterling, preventing the manufacturing of two Packs more in *England*, which would be worth one 100 *l*. *Englands* loſs (in the whole) by the exportation of a Pack of Wool, is little leſs than 90*l*. in its firſt exportation, moreover conſidering the Cuſtom paid when exported (if manufactured in *England*) with the Frait and Cuſtom where it is imported; the product of all theſe charges augmenting the 100 *l*. when ſold there, laid out in another commodity beyond Sea, the Cuſtom whereof being paid there, with Frait and Cuſtom (when imported) in *England*, it's much, if it do not more than double the firſt principal.

Now, if it be ſo, that the exportation of one Pack of *Engliſh* wool, exported at 10 *l*. or 12 *l*. be neer 200 *l*. dammage to the King and Kingdom in general, is the conſequence; what will be the loſs in the exporting of 10. or 15 Thouſand Packs into *France* (in two Years time) is eaſily accounted (by ſuch) as are concerned in the affaires: And although this evil is almoſt incredible to many, yet it is too manifeſt, to ſuch as have made (ſomething) their buſineſs to look into it; and not only ſo, but theſe further inconveniences muſt (by this means) ariſe upon us.

Firſt, The ſpoyling of our Trade with *France* in all our Woollen manufactures, as doth already appear, by the Impoſt put upon the ſame, there, from 20. to 40. *per Cent*. ſince ſo great quantitie of our VVools is exported thither, whereunto woful experience may be a ſufficient witneſs.

And ſecondly, In time it will capacitate the *French*, as well as the *Dutch*, (if not much better) to under-ſell our *Engliſh* Merchants, in Forrein Parts, nay (poſſibly) in our own Country, (to this, I ſhall only mention the words of a Merchant in *Flanders*, by Letter to another here, treating on this matter thus, *We Engliſh have our throats cut, with our own Weapons, wondering at the ſtupidity of the Engliſh here, that they ſhould ſo long omit, to poſſeſs the King's Majeſty with this deplorable and dangerous caſe, in reſpect to the preſent and future inconveniences thereof.*) by reaſon whereof (as in time the *French* will not only prevent our *Engliſh* woollen manufactures, to be ſold in *France* (as before minded) and alſo in other Forrein Parts, but alſo bring theirs into *England*, and ſell them for four times the value here, to the great inriching of themſelves, and to the impoveriſhing of the *Engliſh*, only by new fantaſtick fopperies, for which the *Engliſh* pay not leſs than ſome hundred thouſands in a year, to get themſelves into the *French* mode. So much (indeed) have we been deceived (in this matter) to our ſhame, as well as to our apparent loſs; that whereas (in time of the late War) with the *Dutch* and *French*, thoſe *French* Druggets were thereby much prevented, many *Engliſh* ſtriped broad-cloths rent through into three parts (about 10 *s. per* Yard, price) being put into the form of *French* Druggets, were ſold in each part at 8 *s. per* Yard; and ſo (in the whole) came to 1 *l.* 4 *s. per* Yard. So likewiſe it is certainly true, that many of thoſe Druggets made here in *England* goe for *French*, and in order thereunto, directed to *French* Men in ſome of our Southern parts, have from thence been conveighed unto *London* (and there ſold for *French* Goods) to have coloured the buſineſs with the Cuſtom-houſe Officers, to ſave the Cuſtom of *French* Druggets. And this continued long, before the cheat could be diſcovered; but being once found out by the Clothier, (who could not (to his own private advantage) conceal ſuch an apparent injury to his Country, it was ſoon prevented: whereby we may come to ſee (with clearneſs) the advantage, that that People makes upon our *Engliſh* fanſies, by over-ſelling us in the ſame kind of commodities, that they make out of our *Engliſh* Wools, joyned (as before minded) with their own; having alſo an advantage thereunto, by the cheapneſs of the manufactures thereof, beyond what we can do (the *French* being very

very populous, and living harder than we can in *England*; as is evident by their Linnens, that Paying Fraight and Cuſtom with profit to the Merchant, yet can be afforded cheaper than can be made in *England*.

But ſo it is, that the advantage we give them, beſides, in the mixture of our Wools with theirs, is ſuch, that whereas their Wool of it ſelf, is not worth above 4 *l. per* Pack, being mixed with ours, becomes ſo fit for Worſted-ſtuffes, as that it comes to be worth no leſs than 12 *l. per* Pack. So that all thoſe things conſidered, it becomes obvious to every Eye, (that doth not (wilfully) cloſe it ſelf) that the exportation of Wool from *England* and *Ireland* is of a dangerous and deſtructive nature to the very being of the Trade of this Kingdom. Whatever objections have been made (with reſpect to the Graziers preſent advantage) thereunto, whoſe loſs may poſſibly be ſuppoſed (by prohibiting exportation) to be about 20 *s.* in every Pack of Wool that's ſo exported: In anſwer whereunto, I have this to ſay, That though it may be granted, it will be ſo for a time in this one particular commodity, yet ſuch will (thereby) be the ſpoyl of the general Trade of the Nation, that what is gotten in one, will be loſt in every other commodity, as Corn, Beefs, and Muttons; on each of which, with the Wools, the Farmers and Graziers advantage doth much more than equally depend; beſides the inevitable danger of the ruine of our Trade, and ſo conſequently the ſtarving of our Poor, without ſome extraordinary means for their ſupport; who while the priviledge of our Trade is kept inviolate with other Nations, we have money plentifully to expend for the advancement of the Farmers and the Graziers; for that is that which chiefly advanceth the Grazier and Farmer, which is Fleſh and Corn, and not the quantity of Wool, as afterwards will more fully appear.

And it hath always been obſerved (in former and latter times) hitherto, that when the Clothiers have had the beſt Trade at *London*, the Farmer did not looſe his ſhare in the advantage thereof in the Country; according to the diſpoſe of providence, who hath ordered Nations, but more eſpecially the People of every Nation, (in matters of this kind) to depend upon each other, and ſo to riſe or fall together, as they are deſigned to mercy, or to judgment, by the hand of God. Theſe things conſidered, with a little deliberation,

ration, it will manifeſtly appear, that the exporting of our *Engliſh* Wool, will not only prove the ſpoyl of our Merchants and Clothiers Trade, and ſo conſequently expoſe the Poor to deſperate ſtraits for ſubſiſtence, but (in ſhort time) muſt of neceſſity make the Country-mens imployments (of every kind) to come to little, and ſo make them uncapable of paying Rent.

For, if it be ſo, that while we have but a little Trade, we can hardly live one by another, What may be expected, if our Trade ſhould be taken away? which is now more in danger (by the *French*) than it hath been theſe 300. Years paſt--- And then we may conſider, what the price of Wool may be in *England*, when we by our remiſneſs ſhall loſe our Trade, by the skill and circumventing practices of Foreiners, and we helping forwards for a ſuppoſed profit; For there was not more art and skill in our Anceſtors, to bring home the work at firſt to the Wool, and prohibiting the exportation thereof, and ſetling the manufacturing in *England*, than is now to export the materials thereof unmanufactured. The neceſſary conſequence will be to bring the Price of Wool (as it was 300. Years agon, when moſt was exported) to 6 *d. per* Pound, as appears in a little Piece, called, *The Golden Fleece*, written by *W. S.* Gent.) in the Year, 56. although the Cloth made in *Flanders* of our Wools, at 6 *d. per* Pound, was then ſold here in *England* at 10 *s. per* Yard, when at this Day the Cloth made in *England* of Wool, worth 12 *d. per* Pound will hardly yield 7 *s. per* Yard, which is above 30. *per Cent.* worſe to the *Engliſh* Trade now, than it was to the *Flemmings* formerly.

And though for the preſent, the price of Wool be riſen by its exportation, yet if the quantity lately exported (being no leſs than 20. Thouſand Packs) had been kept in *England*, the quantity (if not with 10. Thouſand Packs more) would in time have been exported in the particular manufactures. For if the Wool was not exported to thoſe places beyond the Seas, there to be manufactured, they muſt of neceſſity have our Woollen manufacture, and then could not have thoſe advantages (as before hinted) by our Wools, to improve the *French* wool, and ſhort *Spaniſh* wool, and their fine-ſpun Linnens.

By all which, it is ſo obvious, that in time to come, the VVools in *England* would be much cheaper, becauſe by the aforeſaid means

means, leſs Wool would be uſed in *England*; and beſides that which would be uſed, the manufacture would be ſo low, that it could not bear up any price (as is begun already in *France*, and will ſuddenly follow in *England*) for it is generally reported, that Wool is as cheap in *France* at this Day, as it is in ſome parts where it is uſed in *England*. And if it be ſo now, what in reaſon can be expected, as the effects of theſe two things? *viz.* The firſt, when the great quantity that is lately exported to *France*, with thoſe three additions before hinted, that the 20. Thouſand Packs helps to work out, and eſpecially moſt making VVorſted Stuffs, which goes as far by that means, as 40. Thouſand Packs of Wool would if uſed in *England*, becauſe it would be made more into ſubſtantial Cloaths, which conſumes more Wool, than thoſe light and thin Stuffes do: which is a ſufficient Anſwer to that Objection, that the great quantity of any commodity, that is exported, muſt be of ſcarcity, and ſo conſequently raiſe the price: which I muſt confeſs, if it was a conſumptive commodity, but it is quite contrary in this. For as our experience is, when the VVool was all uſed in *England*, (or very little exported) then it was 18 *d. per* Pound, and when all, or the greateſt part was exported, it was at 6 *d. per* Pound.

The wiſe Man ſaith, *What is, hath been*; and, *what hath been, may be again*; and ſo no new thing.

I ſhall conclude with a ſhort review of the Graziers and Farmers preſent loſs: In the greateſt Commodity, which pays his Rent, as was formerly hinted. Suppoſe, through want of Trade, Mutton be ſold but at 6 *d. per* Quarter (which is but little) being 2 *s. per* Sheep; and there being ſome Sheep that one 100. will but produce a Pack of Wool (though ſome leſs) that comes to 10 *l.* which is the worth of the Pack of Wool, (and ſo proportionably as to Beefs) which is wholly loſt to the Grazier.

And for the Corn (as I ſuppoſe) there may be about 50 *ls.* worth, (as far as I can judge in my travels, to One Hundred Sheep throughout the Nation, which for want of a Trade, it may not (at ſome ſeaſons) come to Thirty or Forty at moſt; and if a good Trade, it may be worth Sixty or Seventy: By which means it may eaſily be demonſtrated, how the Farmers come to be impoveriſhed.

The advantage of the Tenant conſiſts in the advance of the greateſt Commodity that pays his Rent, which is not in Wool, but in Corn: and it is a neceſſary conſequence, that there being ſo many Thouſand Families depending upon the Cloathing Trade, which (as before hinted) was inſtrumental to advance the price of Corn, that where-ever Trade is, there People are moſt populous, and when thoſe Perſons are deprived of their Trade, depending wholly upon it, they muſt unavoidably come to the Pariſhes: which is in many Places begun already, and Daily increaſing; and feared in time will ſo increaſe, that the Poor will be expecting more than there will be to contribute to them. And as there be in many Country Pariſhes Ten that live on the Trade, for One that can live of himſelf. VVhat will become of thoſe Pariſhes, when the Trade is gone? So that it may eaſily be concluded that the Farmers loſs for want of Trade is four-fold greater than the Pack of VVool, by the lowneſs of the price of Corn. And this is the true reaſon: for thoſe Perſons that formerly, when there was a Trade, could lay out *Ten Shillings* in Corn, have now but *Five Shillings*, which being multiplyed by Hundreds of Thouſands in the Nation, it will be no difficult point to ſee which way the Grazier and Farmer come to be undone, and ſo are forced to give up their Lands into their Landlords hands: For it is not ſo much the ſuper-abounding Crops that leſſens the price of Corn, but the want of Money. For I have known as much Corn grow Yearly, formerly, as is now, (when Trade was good) to be 20. or 30. *per Cent.* dearer than now.

SInce the foregoing papers were printed, I met with an Objection againſt what was aſſerted page the 4th. (*viz.*) The *French* having that advantage of our *Engliſh* Wool, to help work up theirs being worſers and likewiſe, that according to my beſt Information, there was none fit for ſuch purpoſes in all the world, (*viz.*) for fine Worſteds, or a middle ſort of Cloath, but *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* (which is all one;) The Objection were, that there was Wools in moſt parts of the world; therefore why not proper for thoſe purpoſes? Anſwer, that there is Wools was never gainſaid, but that there is ſuch Wool for fineneſs and ſubſtance in all the world, except *Spaniſh*, I cannot as yet ever receive, (as before I hinted) any ſatisfactory accompt. For the better ſatisfaction of the Reader, I ſhall give ſome account of the natures of Wools in *England*, but firſt of *Spaniſh* Wools: They are the fineſt in all the world for Cloath, but not ſo fit for Worſted, being too fine and ſhort, and thoſe Wools alſo are one in nature with our *Engliſh*, being at firſt from Sheep that were *Engliſh* Tranſported thither; and though that be much finer by reaſon of the Climate, yet is it ſtill one in nature; next to it is *Lempſter* Wool, almoſt as fine as *Spaniſh*; then next part of *Shropſhire* and *Stafford-ſhire*, part of *Gloceſter-ſhire*, *Wilts*, *Dorſet*, *Hampſhire*, part of *Suſſex*, and part of *Kent*, *Summerſet*, *Devon*, and *Cornwall*, moſt part for Cloath, ſome ſmall parts for Worſteds. Amongſt all theſe Counties, there is 9. *d. per* pound difference in the priſes of one place, (*viz.*) *Lempſter*, from ſome other parts; but then again part of *Suſſex* and *Surrey*, *Middleſex*, *Hertfordſhire*, and ſome other Counties 2. *d.* 3. *d. per* pound cheaper then the loweſt of the abovementioned Counties; but then for *Barkeſhire*, *Buckingham*, *Warwick*, *Oxford*, *Leiceſter*, *Nottingham*, *Northampton*,

and *Lincoln*, part of *Kent* called *Rumney Marſh*, moſt part of the laſt mentioned Counties, and part of *Iriſh* Wools is ſo proper for Worſted Stuffs, that all the world cannot be compared with it. And hence it is, that the cares of our Anceſtors have been ſuch, (ever ſince King *Edward* the 3d. in moſt Kings Reignes) there have been ſome Lawes made or altered, and in ſome Kings Reigns altered three or four times to make it effectual: and for a memorial to future Generations, are the Wool-packs in the Lords Houſe in *Weſtminſter* for Seats, to put them in mind of what is the foundation of the Riches of the Kingdome, that it is by the various ſtreams of the Manufactures thereof, as formerly in the Front briefly hinted from the Farmer to the Merchant. I ſhall now endeavour to give ſome particular account how all are conſerved; And before I do this, give me leave to inſert the Obſervation of a worthy Author Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, that I have met withal ſince the former Papers were Written, who ſaith, That, then which was in King *James's* Reign, about fourſcore thouſand undreſt & undyed Cloaths yearly were Tranſported: whereby it was evident that the Kingdome hath been yearly deprived of about 400000. l. which in fifty five years is near 20 Millions, that would have been gained by the labour of poor Workmen in that time, with the Merchants gains for bringing in dying Stuffs, and returns of Cloaths dreſt and dyed, with other benefits to the Realm, beſides exceeding inlargeing of Traffick, and increaſe of Ships and Mariners.

There would have been gained in that time, about three Millions by increaſe of Cuſtoms upon Commodities returned for Cloaths dreſt and dyed, and for dying Stuffs which would have been more plentifully brought in and uſed for the ſame.

There hath been alſo Tranſported in that time yearly, by Bayes, *Northern* and *Devonſhire* Kerzyes white, about 50000. Cloaths counting three Kerſyes to a Cloath, whereby hath been loſt about five Millions by thoſe ſorts of Cloaths, in that time which would have come to poor Work-men for their labour, with Cuſtoms for dying Stuffs, and the peoples profit for bringing them in with returns of other Commodities and Fraights for ſhipping.

Bayes are Tranſported white into *Amſterdam*, and being there dyed

dyed and dreſt, are ſhipped into *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other Kingdomes, where they are ſold in the name of *Flemiſh* Bayes, ſetting their own Town Seals upon them; ſo that we loſe the very name of our home-bred Commodities, and other Countrys get the Reputation and Credit thereof. Lamentable it is that this Land ſhould be deprived of ſo many above-mentioned Millions, as that our Native Commodities of Cloath, ordained of God for the natural Subjects, being ſo Royal and rich in it ſelf, ſhould be driven to ſo ſmall advantage of Reputation & Profit to your Majeſty and People, and ſo much improved and intercepted by Strangers; conſidering that God hath enabled and given your Majeſty power to advance dreſſing and dying, and Tranſporting all your Cloaths within a year or two: I ſpeak it knowingly, to ſhew how it may be done laudibly, lawfully, and approved to be Honourable, feaſeable, and profitable.

He obſerves alſo the increaſe of his Majeſties Cuſtoms, by bringing in and ſpending of dying Stuffs, as alſo ſtrength in ſhipping, & ſetting ſo many thouſands of poor on work; alſo noting that in the Low-Countrys, where theſe Cloaths are dreſt and dyed, they ſtretch them to ſuch unreaſonable length, contrary to our Law, that they prevent and foreſtale our Markets, and croſs the juſt prohibition of our State and Realm, by their Agents, and Factors, lying in divers places with our own Cloaths, to the great decay of this Kingdome in general, & diſcredit to our Cloaths in particular. Again, he adds, that if the accounts were truly known, it would be found that they make not clear profit only by Cloath Tranſported rough, undreſt, and undyed, ſixty thouſand pounds a year; but it is moſt apparent your Majeſty, in your Cuſtoms, your Merchants in their Sales and Prizes; your Subjects in their Labours, for lack of dreſſing and dying; your Ships and Mariners in not bringing in of dying Stuffs, ſpending of *Alum* (if not *Copperas*) are hindered yearly near a Million of pounds: So that Trade is driven to that great hinderance of your Majeſty and People, by permitting your Native Commodities to paſs rough, undreſt, and undyed. Thus Sir *Walter Rawleigh*.

Now if it was thus with *England* ſo long agoe, when the Wool was ſpun and made here into ſubſtantial Cloath; and that for want only of dreſſing and dying, many Millions were loſt to the King and Kingdom: What then hath been the loſs of ſo many

thouſand Packs of Wool exported (without any improvement, eſpecially that to *France*, the conſequence of which is more prejudicial (as hath been demonſtrated) than can be imagined (accounting but one hundred pounds dammage by one Pack of Wool,) of which there are no leſs than ten thouſand yearly, if not much more exported, by which there is dammage a Million of pounds *ſterling*, yearly to this Kingdome, (beſides the ſuffering of the Poor for want of Imployment) out of which his Majeſties dammage cannot be leſs then 100000. pound yearly: The leſſening of Shipping, and diſcouragement of Mariners; the Walls of this Kingdome hereby deſerve alſo to be conſidered.

Next then to his Majeſtyes loſs, is that of the Merchant and Cloathier; after which muſt follow detriment to all other perſons depending on Trade, there being ſuch a Connexion of Trades one to another, and (the whole of Trade being enlarged by the abounding of Laborious People. Thoſe ſupply the Farmers and Graziers with money, for you to ſupply the Gentry. They again ſcatter it amongſt the Tradeſmen, as may be witneſſed by the building of the City of *London*, how Proviſion and all Conſumptive goods are advanced by it: by which circulation all degrees are either imployed, enriched, or both; and hence naturally comes Content, Harmony, and Pleaſure, one in another; the Poor being by Imployment delivered from fear of want, the Gentry, Merchant, and Tradeſmen, by the eſtabliſhment of Trade therein. This Rationally is the ſtrength of any People, Poverty and Idleneſs brings their ſhame and Ruine, which would unavoidably follow want of Trade. And ſo much the more where the greateſt Trade hath been; if it fails, the greater Poverty is and will be. And to inſtance, as here, in *London*, the Trade in Proviſion is the more, ſo by Conſequence it muſt be dear, and ſo beſt for all; ſo of the other hand, if the City ſhould be forced to keep ſo many thouſands, when all their work is done, as is now in the Building, it would be a great burden: ſo the caſe is in *England* in this particular, where great Trade have been formerly kept, and drawn ſeveral Families thither, and have raiſed Commodities there; but when it fails, it is a miſerable ſtate and condition thoſe places are in. To return, in ſhort

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there is ſuch Connexion and dependency one upon another in *England*, that if one fail, all the reſt more or leſs, either more near, or remotely are concerned; as in the natural body, when any member fails, the whole ſuffers thereby; and as all Trades and degrees of men may ſuffer by one miſtake in Trades, and in none more probably. I will ſay then this of Wool, as Merchants, Artificers, Farmers, Sea-men, Fiſher-men, being the people, which by their ſtudy and labour do principaly, if not only bring in, or give occaſion to the bringing in of wealth to the Nation, and other kind of people (*viz.*) Nobility, Gentry, Lawyers, Phyſicians, Schollars of all ſorts; Shop-keepers are they that receive from theſe, and diſtribute it again, and all are conſequently concerned in this rich Treaſure of Wool, becauſe this being a Manufacture at home, ſets more hands at work than half the Nation.

May I not with modeſty and within Compaſs, ſay three parts of Laborious and Induſtrious people? conſidering that moſt of the ſhipping is imployed in this affair, and alſo ſo many Trades that depend immediatly upon this of Cloathing, that moſt of other Trades are but for Proviſion, either in Food or Conveniencies for Cloathing: and ſo from his Majeſty to the meaneſt, all are more or leſs concerned, *The King moſtly*; not only in that his People are by that moſt imployed and provided for, nor in that ſuch a Staple Trade, the like whereunto the world hath not with good Advantage thereby is maintained; but becauſe ſo great a Revenue comes directly into him upon the Trade, occaſioned thereby: Thus as the King gains, or ſuffers moſt, ſo the perſons that have the greateſt Eſtates or Trades, and ſo all proportionably to the Beggar. And alſo conſidering that an accuſtomary thing begets ſuch an habit that is hard to reduce; as in our rough and undreſt Cloath to *Holland*, ſo it will be with all our Manufactures in *France*; nay I am informed that the *French* hath not only impoſed a great Tax upon our Woollen Manufactures, from twenty to forty *per cent*, but have alſo (as is affirmed, beſide that their impoſition) abſolutely prohibited our Cloaths coming there. I am the more large in the demonſtration of this affair, not only becauſe this hath coſt me many years labour and ſtudy to conſult all ſorts of concerned perſons, beſides

ſides mine own experience about it; nor becauſe it is ſo hard to convince people of the meanſt capacity, but ſome of the wiſer ſort, how to cure this diſmal malady: which ſome deſpairing of, have rather thoughts of ſetting up ſome other Manufacture in Lieu of endeavours to prevent the exportation of Wool and Manufacturing of that at home, looking thereon as a thing not to be overcome, (as that of Linnens in ſome capable parts of *England*) and a better improvement in the product of forrein plantations, which may alſo be ſet upon together herewith as an addition; ſo as ſeveral ſorts of perſons may be ſet better on work, not capable of this employment, and yet no prejudice to this of Cloathing: for all other Countryes have the advantage of *England*; or are equal to us in other Manufactures proper to their Countreys, but not in this of Cloathing: and it will be found that all Trades in *England*, wholly diſtinct from this of Cloathing, bring not the tythe of advantage that this doth.

Since men cannot rationally believe the effects to be greater than the cauſe, the moſt of other Manufactures either is in being, or brought to uſe, by the Manufactures of Wool; even from the Farmer to the Merchant all are concerned in this of Wool, as may hereafter more appear. It now remains that we ſum up *Englands* loſs by the exportation of our Wool to Forrein Parts; not only in the advantage we might have by the Manufactureing thereof, here in *England*, as formerly noted; but alſo in the importing af *Dutch* Cloath, and more in *French* Manufactures, becauſe *England* improves not their own Wools; and of the humour of *Engliſh* people, in putting ſuch a value upon *French* fancies, when themſelves are in a better capacity, if improved, to produce the like, or better, and ſave the following ſums.

1. One Million of pounds *Sterling* yearly, in the Exportation of our Wool.

2. Five hundred thouſand pounds in rough Cloath, which is but half what Sir *Walter Rawleigh* obſerves in his time.

3. One hundred thouſand pound yearly, in Importing *French* Manufactures ſuperfluous.

4. Many thouſand pounds in Importing *Dutch* Cloath.

5. And laſtly, the evil conſequences thereof in loſeing our Shipping, which would be encouraged thereby, & are the ſtrength or

walls

Walls of our Kingdome, as more particularly doth appear hereafter.

Having now discovered the dammage, it is to *England*, in the Transportation of Wool from the King to the meaneſt, *I* ſhall endeavour alſo to diſcover the methods how it is done; and before I ſhall preſcribe Remedy (for it is not enough to know diſtempers, eſpecially ſuch that are ſo Conſumptive,) it is requiſite to know the cauſe of thoſe diſtempers; or elſe the ſuppoſed Remedies will in time come to be a diſeaſe, as it is too much in this caſe at this day in *England*: where the cauſes are miſtaken, the Remedies are conſequently miſapplyed, whereby a diſeaſe in ſuppoſition becomes one in *effect*; the methods or ways of this evil are---Firſt, in *Rumny Marſh* in *Kent*, where the greateſt part of rough Wooll is exported from *England*, put aboard French Shallops by night, ten or twenty men well armed to guard it; ſome other parts there are, as in *Suſſex*, *Hampſhire*, and *Eſſex*, the ſame methods may be uſed, but not ſo conveniently. The ſame for coombed Wool from *Canterbury*, they will carry it ten or fifteen miles at night towards the Sea, with the like guard as before; but for other parts it muſt be done partly by the Remiſneſs of the Officers of his Majeſties Cuſtoms, and eaſie Compoſition for the forfeitures of the Bonds, as more ſhall appear anon.

And then for coombed Wool in other parts, ſome is ſhipped off from *London* for Bales of Drapery; nay ſome at *Lime*, and alſo at *Exon*, where there is ten thouſand pounds Sterling weekly laid out in the woollen Manufactury, which is moſt for Workmens wages: *I* know no place clear; and then another reaſon, why perſons are not detected, is, becauſe all the wools that have been taken in thoſe parts, where moſt hath been exported, have been ſuffered to go off at the ſame places after Judgments paſt, and by the Officers, to the ſame perſons at a low rate, being under rated to thoſe very men that intended to ſhip it at firſt: ſo that the evil is never like to be avoyded that way; only that which is taken, happily may be a little the dearer, to keep the Trade going; for I have enquired, and cannot underſtand, but of two parcels of wool that have been ſeaſed on in *Kent*, that have been uſed in *England*, but all ſent away, and ſo his Majeſties providence

dence is cheated, who keeps Servants at great wages to prevent such abuses.

And then another cheat is under a pretense of wool from *Hampton*, to the Islands of *Jersey* and *Gernsey*,& sometimes from other parts which is against the Law; for there is no wool to be exported to those Islands, but only from *Hampton*, and that by Law should be by weight: but now it goes by gross, by the pack when it should be weighed, but I believe not one pack in ten is weighed, for three packs is put into one. Then from *Ireland*, which is the greatest mischief of all to *England*, and much increased since the Act was in force against Cattel, the *Irish* wool can be sold as cheap in *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders*, as it is in those places where wool is used in *England*, which is a great augmentation to us of prejudice for Foreiners to have our wool so cheap as we in *England*, having other conveniencies to underwork us as formerly hinted. The wayes there must be by the carelesnes of the Officers, in not taking solvant security and exactnes in the weight of wool, and true examination of the returns of their Certificates, and partly by easie compositions, if not before bonds are forfeited, and happily much combed Wool there packt up as before, as bailes of Cloath, or barrels of Beef, and shiped as *Irish* Cloath; and in all points so cunningly carryed, as they are seldome discovered, and never sealed as the Statutes in that case made and provided, do strictly require.

Here see what *W. S.* saith: *Now to shew you more particularly these abuses, how the Laws are crossed and daily obstructed to such as endeavour to serve their Country, by such as ought to encourage the prosecutors; sure there will be very many practises of evil consequents discovered; for first in the Custom-House, where bonds are taken, to the intent that these prohibited Commodities pass not by means of Mariners out of the Nation, but only from Port to Port for accommodation of such parts as want such Commodities; they are very Remiss and careless in taking of the Sea-mens discharge of their Obligatory Conditions; where also it is usual with the Sea-men to bring fradulent Certificates, and so to cheat the Kings Providense, who keeps Servants at great wages purposely to prevent such abuses; or if there be a regular return of there Bonds,*

yet

yet there is commonly a fraudulency in giving them, for the Masters of ships will so continue their designe, as he who is Master at giving the Bonds, and is legally bound, shall immediatly pass his Interest to another man, who taking charge of the Vessel and Voyage, is notwithstanding not engaged in the Poart Bond; and therefore, neither is he accomptable for breach of their condition, *again, when the Port bonds are justly taken, and as justly returned; yet to prevent the true and real detection of the offender, and to dishearten the legal prosecutor, some friends of the offender will clap an information against him, purposely to hinder and divert others, and soon after will let the Prosecution fall at his pleasure; nay, it hath been said, and peradventure not unjustly, that such preventing informations have been antidated to the over-throw of the regal information; but when all is granted, and a full and formal hearing, and decree passed to the just condemnation of the offender: Yet when judgments and inquieries are granted, and do without errours of the Clarks, (which is not always,) impower the Sheriff's and their Bayliffs to see Execution thereof made; it is familiar with those Officers to return a* non est inventus, *or a* mortus est, viz. *Not to be found, or dead, even then when the Offenders and the Officers have been known to be drinking together, at that very time when the* Writ *should have been executed.*

After all this, one step farther will shew how charrety it self abuseth Justice; for let all the former proceedings be granted, and be candid, and clear, and that the Law be indeed justly and legally executed; the offender in custody, and nothing remaining; but that he honestly discharge himself with money, seeing Bail will not be admitted; nevertheless upon a lamentable Petition, and urging a great charge of Children to the Bench, the Offender is usually admitted to compound for Ten in the Hundred, or less, when by his offence he hath gained a Hundred for Ten, or more, and peradventure hath undone a hundred Families or more in so doing: Yet all this while the honest Prosecutor, the only man that appears for the good of his Country, who ought by the Law to have the full benefit and advantage of the Law gratis, *it being enough that he spend his time for the promotion of the publick Weal, after it hath cost him se-*

val great ſums of money, & large expenſe of time, to bring the Offender to Tryal and Conviction, is diſmiſſed with little or no ſatisfaction, unleſs he be rewarded with the brand of an informing Knave: Surely they who made theſe Lawes for the benefit of themſelves and their own Country, did intend a more current and juſt paſſage towards them, than thus to be obſtructed and baffeled. Such abuſes as theſe made Theodoſius *ſay as it is Recorded*, that a wiſe man did himſelf injuſtice by hazarding his Wiſdome and Eſtate for the benefit of his Nation; *and therefore ſome have not ſpared to urge that Cuſtoms and Impoſt, and Toles and Taxes might be taken away from honeſt laborious hazardous Trades and Adventurers, and be put upon litigious Suits at Law, and ſuch as make benefit of their corrupt breath, that is to ſay upon ſuch Lawyers as abuſe their Clyents, and ſuch malicious Clyents as abuſe the name of a juſt innocent Defendent. Nor is the Loſs in theſe by their Tranſportation all the injury, but when honeſt men well affected to the good of their Country, do detect theſe Caterpillers of the Common-wealth, who make ſo vaſt gain, as hath been denoted upon the materials ſo carefully prohibited, when they do endeavour by due courſe of Law to make ſtoppage thereof, and to have the offenders puniſhed; ſo many are the evaſions, ſuch combinations and intereſt in the Officers, who ought to puniſh the Offenders; ſuch favour have they in Courts of Juſtice, and deceptions in the Return of Writs, and in general ſuch affronts and diſcouragements as the deareſt Lover of his Country, or moſt intruſted in Trade, dares not attempt to prevent that miſchief which his eyes behold to fall upon his Nation, or which his own perſon feels to pick his pocket.* Thus far Mr. *W. Smith.*

To prevent all theſe inconveniences, it cannot be done without ſome alteration of ſome Laws, which is an Act of State; and I do preſume his Majeſty doth already, and the Parliament will alſo conſider of it; as to accept of any helps that may be contributed to them. In ſhort, I am of opinion, that if four things were done, there would be in a few moneths ſuch an alteration, which, if I ſhould now inſert, would be Incredible: yet I ſhall hint it; 1. To revive ſome former Act made in Parliament for

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a certain ſeaſon, as in the 4th. of *Hen.* 7. and revived thrice afterwards, which was done upon the ſame complaint, as now is; which if in force with ſome alteration, would be one ſtop: A ſecond is, for all perſons to be accomptable for their wool, becauſe there is time after it is bought to be wayed up, and fetched away out of thoſe Countreys, where the danger is for to get acquaintance for thoſe perſons, and to give ſecurity, as it is, from Port to Port, then being the ſame danger near the Sea. Thirdly, for *Ireland*, to have it confin'd to convenient Ports, both in *Ireland* and *England*. And when all is done, there muſt be ſome perſons of known Integrity, and not mercenary men that muſt have the care and inſpection over all. Fourthly, In thoſe Countreys where no Cloathing is, it would be requiſite for a Store-houſe for ſmall parcels of Wool, and a Bond given that none be ſold to Eoriners which is of ſo eminent advantage, as is by ſome ſaid to the *Dutch*, *to be profit to the publick*, Millions of pounds Sterling *per annum*; and to inſtance one caſe Sir *Walter Rawleigh* accounts by this in his remains, *page* the 173, and 174. *that in one year and half was drawn to the* Hollanders, Hamburgers, *and* Embdenors, *at the leaſt two Millions of pounds Sterling, from* England *for Corn, in a time of ſcarcity in* England.

And if a Bond is ſo advantageous for ſuch Commodities that are liable to be much impared in long lying; it's doubtleſs abundantly more advantagous in ſuch a ſtable Commodity as wool is; and if practiſed would be of ſuch a uſe to *England*, that I think would enrich *England* more than I will now ſtand to account.

I may add a fifth, which is, that there may be a ſhort and quick Tryal of Offenders, and that in ſuch place as the Offender may have leaſt oppertunity for Evaſions.

We will conclude the whole with a ſhort ſurvey of ſome particular Immunities which Cloathing hath conferred upon *England* with which the glory of it extends to the very utmoſt inhabited parts of the world, and without which, the Ark of Gods mercy, and the glory of this Land is like to depart.

First, the reducing of Cloathing to *England* in Manufacture as well as in Materials (which muſt a thouſand times repeat *Englands* gratitude to the memory of that ever renowned King *Edward* the Third) hath produced ſuch opulent and magnificent ſocieties of Merchants, as the whole world cannot again demonſtrate, that is to ſay, firſt, the Merchant Adventurers Company, whoſe Governours, Preſident, Conſults, and the like chief Officers are not of leſs eſteem, where they pleaſe no ſeat themſelves, then are the Reſidentiaries of the greateſt Princes, and ſo much the more Cordial is their welcome, as each mans profit leads his affection beyond his Reverence to publick Embaſſies, becauſe Proximity to a mans perſonal intereſt ſits nearer in his thoughts then when he is involved in the publick concernment.

This Company hath by their Policy and Order, ſupplanted thoſe ſocieties of the Hance Towns (as they are called) who vending an inconſiderable number of Cloaths, and at low rates, did never the leſſs account *England* obliged to them for their Markets and Shipping: Whereas at this day the Merchant Adventurer do utter ten times as many Cloaths Annually in the ſame Markets at far better prices; And in anſwer to the ſhipping which *England* had in thoſe times from thoſe Countreys at dear entertainment, this Trade of Cloathing, and this particular Company of Merchants, have furniſhed the Navy Royal from time to time, and upon all occaſions with ſuch ſtrengths as they have not feared, if they have not awed the greateſt Naval Forces ſayling upon the Ocean, he that may have the favour to peruſe their Records, ſhall find what oppertune Service they did for their Country in the year Eighty-Eight, and ſince upon all military occaſions wherein this Nation hath been embroyled with any other.

Next, the Eaſt-Land Company hath planted the Trade of Cloathing all about the Baltick Seas, which at this day imployes many Warlike Ships, and gives at great increaſe of Marriners to the no ſmall growth of *Englands* ſtrenth at Sea.

The *Muſcovia* Company have diſcovered the paſſage by the North Cape, and the great Trade of *Greenland*, what wealth occurs to *England* by the *Turky* and *Eaſt-India* Company, is not eaſie to be numbered; their ſhipping alſo being as ſtrong, and

rich

rich as any that ſwim upon the Seas. How one of them hath by the trade of Cloathing only engroſſed all manner of wealth coming from the *Levant Seas*; And how the other of them hath eſtabliſhed the rich Trades of Silks, Spices, Jewels, *&c.* In the Southern parts of the world, is by all Admired, though by none to be valued, and what ſtrength of ſhipping theſe two Companyes have produced, as they have been wonderful, ſo they have been formedable to all Nations: what Contribution the Cloathing Trade with *Spain* and *France* hath given to *Englands* maritin power, is by thoſe Countrys themſelves feared, as well as by *England* found to its great ſecurity: And as theſe unvaluable bleſſings have befallen *England* by the Trade of Cloathing, politickly and providently drawn into Societies, Companyes, and Corporations; ſo the looſe Tranſactions of Trade in other for the Countreys have rendered them ſo poor at Sea; as were it not ſhipping of *England* and *Holland*, the very life of Commerce would periſh, would return to the ſame Wilderneſs, & uſeleſsneſs as it is now in *Greenland* and the *Weſt-Indies*, where civil Government hath not once been heard of.

Again, If compariſon be made for richneſs of Trade between Cloathing and any, or all other ſubſtances of Merchandiſes, whereby any Nation, but more eſpecially *England*, may be enriched, neither the Silks nor Furs, nor Wines, nor Spices, nor Bullion it ſelf or all other Countreys can render that account of its own, or can in proportion equalize *England*, in Cloathing, Food, Shipping, Strength of people, and wealth of money.

About the Manufactureing of Wool.

THat this rich Treasure in it self, of far more worth than the Golden Mines of *India* to *England*, is so much degenerated, or adulterated in the Manufactureing thereof by many of the Manufactors, some of which wanting skill, others principles of honesty, the Laws in that case being so much neglected in *England*, and want of some new Laws for the new Drapers, hath occasioned the woollen Manufacture to be rendered contemptible both at home and abroad, and so much the more, or the rather, because the *Dutch*, *Flemins*, (and it is feared in time the *French* also) do by care and industry indeavour to excel our *English*; the consequence is to loose our *English* Trade, and this principally by a liberty taken, so that honest and conscientious persons come to dammage by some others false way of gains, according to Mr. *Childes* third head in that of Trade, and Interest; that the Advantage the *Dutch* have of us in all their Native Commodities is their exactness, by which meanes their credit is so, that it is taken by its contents, (and ours not) which is very advantageous, which is done by the qualifications of those persons that have the oversight, and are intrusted in that affair, which is not done in *England*, but generally the contrary.

In general all States and Common-wealths are supported by two providential works (viz.) Reward and Punishment; for as no Law can compel men to be corporally laborious, or studious in knowledge & literature, unless rewards be annexed to all such compulsion; so no providence can attend the preservation of profitable designes, either

either in Learning or Trade, unleſs ſuch puniſhments be enjoyned: This opinion that profound Senator Cicero alledgeth from Solon, one of the ſeven wiſe Græcians, and the only man of them which gave Lawes; and this is the weak and frail Eſtate of men and Nations, that unleſs they be as well encouraged in their endeavours, as puniſhed in their miſdemeanors, they will ſpeedily become Libertines, and ruin all as is too too much feared in this caſe in England at this day; and as before about the Wool, ſo the working for the greateſt part hath been confined to England this three hundred years, and untill theſe late years has been ſo preſerved, by the diligence of ſuch Officers as have been ordained and impowered, carefully to ſee the Manufactures kept under thoſe rules which the Laws have provided for their perfection; and ſeeing this Nation is by God peculiariſed in theſe two bleſſings (viz.) Wools and Manufactures, and through the vigilancy of its Monarches ſafe guarded by Laws, that the native Manufactures might not be undermined by the practices of Foreiners; their ancient providence exacts from the preſent age the ſame preſervation (as before in the Wool) that the Dutch do not undermine us out of all. Again, we may be taught by their diligence, who though they have few or no native Commodities, yet are rich and thriving; (and we who have all, are poor and decaying at leaſt the Country) who ſpare no attendance in overſeeing and ſearching the true makeing of their Manufactures as above, for their exactneſs, giving therefore power and Commiſſions to perſons of more than ordinary worth amongſt them (whom they call cure or care Maſters) to ſee every thing according to the Law; and wherever they find a defect, they make a default upon the Cloath, which firſt is recompenſed by a fine to the State for abuſing the Laws, and afterward remains to admoniſh the buyer, who thereby may guard his purſe; and in caſe the Cloathier be abuſed by any of his Work folks, he checks his dammage upon the true offender in his wages. Now in England there is ſo much the contrary, that many perſons take liberty for want of a regular or legal courſe followed, either for time or forme in working; there is not any of the Relations to Cloathing which doth obſerve ſuch an exact rule of Apprentiſhip (which is not the leaſt cauſe that the Manufactures of Wool are ſo abuſively and deceptiouſly made in England) notwithſtanding it is enjoyned in very ſtrict and penal

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manner by the Statute Lawes; the chief inconveniences of which is, that the Trade so general in use, and maintenance of even numberless Families, doth by its own vast exorbancy convert into Corruptions, and so those great multitudes of people become discredited, beggered, and finally ruined, to the destruction of themselves and the Nation which gave them so great a Blessing.

Another prejudice and not the least, is, that the Nation which hath given them being, and invested them with such materials for Cloathing, is dishonered by false and abusive works: And it is not a little scandal to that Nation which God hath particularly endeavved with those blessings which others want, when its people shall divert those good things which God hath bestowed upon it to evil and deceptious practises; In this consideration it is observable (by some) how little comparitively is the Drunkennesse of those Countrys which produce Wines, and wherein lies their personal riches, and their Nations Honour, though their other sins may sufficiently swell their ultimate account; yet doubtless it strengthens their last Apology, in that they abuse not that endowment which God hath made the original of their Being and Subsistance.

Another consideration is, the Cheat it puts upon all the world, for though every Country hath not the benefit of the Manufacture in themselves, yet are there few of them condemned to such ignorance as not to discern the Cozenage which false Cloathing puts upon them, in which case to the aforesaid dishoner they add a curse, and it was a chief care in Jacobs practise for a Blessing, that he turned it not into a Curse; how much more is this of consideration, when the blessing comes by gift, and not by design or procurement.

And further, great may be the thought of heart, when the sins of false Lucre and Covetuousness (which is Idolatry) are in full pursuance of such as have the full plenty to make weight and measure, yet make it the Art of their practises as well as the practise of their Art, to Cozen both the wise and weak: It can be no great wonder, nor without abundance of presidents, if God for sins of such wilfulness remove his blessings, (with which this Nation is peculiarly enriched and dignified,) and give them to a people which will render him a better, more just, and more profitable account of his Talent; and its no news, that though England be by the Almighty,

chiefly

chiefly ordained to produce the Materials, yet the Manufactures be given to a people, which will render him a better Account; all this and much more is expected, if the Native people continue to abuse the Native Commodity, as of necessity they must, when they know not how to use it. The wisdome of our Ancestors hath been liberally manifested in this particular. First, That the Manufactors be constantly made Apprentices for seaven years at least, the contrary is one great reason, that by ignorance so many abuses are, that are unremidable: Another reason, why Apprentices are generally confined to seaven years servitude, is to the end, that professors (in each Art) multiply not beyond the support of their Trade, which were not to increase good Subjects, but Vagabonds, which doubtless was not the intention of King Edward the 3d, (ever to be remembered by an English man, when in his design in bringing Cloathing to England, a chief part was to multiplie his people, as by his Native and Alleageant Subjects (such as by and by you will understand) he might securely possess the Conquests wherewith God had blessed him, which were beyond any Christian Prince's in his time. It is utterly against reason that a Nation can be poor, whose people are numerous, if their Industry be compelled and incouraged, and their Idleness be punished and reformed. It is the opinion of some, that it's not the barrenness of a Countrey which can forbid this Maxim. The Scots are an abounding and numerous people, and they have a soyle which to a Travellers eye, seems to produce nothing towards a so vast maintenance of the body of that people; yet are they in all parts of the world a warlike and honoured Nation, helpful to all Princes in their Wars, and ready upon occasion to return to the Assistance of their Brethren, be their case good or bad. The Dutch are a numerous Nation, daily multiplying in a Country which hath in comparison nothing of its own growth to support them, either in Food or Cloathing, yet they want nothing neither in necessaries or wealth, because they are industrious. What Crick of the Seas do they leave unvisited? and in shipping are so stored as most parts of the world do love or fear them. Now a great increase (at least) of good people (as above hinted in King Edward) rests upon the regulation of Trade; for its not the number of workmen, but number of good workmen which increaseth Families, and it's Families which increaseth and spreadeth good

people; the other for want of knowledg and skill, being fixed no where, because their labours will not maintain themselves, much-less Families: For who will use a workman, who hath neither skill nor credit, when he can imploy one that hath both?

Of principle importance therefore is the Regulation of Apprentiships, both to the best increase of people, and to the honest, creditable, and wealthy Manufactures of Wool, and especially of Cloathing, (being the Antient'st Manufacture) for want of which not only the former denoted faults are daily found in their works, but good work-men are undersold and ruined (as formerly hinted) by bad, and the whole Nation involved in great dishonour, as after you will hear.

Now Justice, which all men cry up, and few practise, is a vertue both divine and humane; Divine Justice is either from God to man, wherein his Providence is his Justice, by which he governeth the world, or it is from man towards God, and then its piety, whereby he returns to God prayse and glory for his numberless blessings in Republicks, Cityes and Towns, its Equity, the fruit whereof is Peace & Plenty; in domestick relations between Man & Wife, it's Unity and Concord; from Servants to Masters, good Will and Diligence; from Masters to Servants, its Humanity and Gentleness; and from a man to his own body, health and happiness. There is none of all these Relations but is necessary and important to the Reformations in the abuses, defaults, deceptions, and grievances committed upon Cloathing, which in this discourse have in some measure been discovered, and by which both God and man are justly provoked.

The Justice we are to use to relieve the complaints before exhibited, is either distributive, or Commutative; Justice distributive, is to give each man his deserts, whether it be honour or punishment: And Commutative Justice, is in bargaining, bartering, exchanging, or in any transactions between man and man, to use all means to keep Promises, Covenants and Contracts; and for a man to behave himself as he would have others do to him, to receive the Innocent into protection, to repress and punish offenders, without which, common intercourse and humane society must necessarily be dissolved; and for preservation whereof, I have read, that in Antient times, the Fathers have not spared their own Sons.

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The Ægyptian Kings, to whom Antiquity gives the privileg of makeing Laws, the Græcians, *and* Romans *deified Juſtice, and would not violate it towards their Enemies; ſo juſt alſo were the* Lacedemonians, *and ſo free from diſtruſting each other, as even for the publick ſafety, they uſed neither Locks nor Barrs, inſomuch that one asking* Archidamus, *who thoſe Governours were, which ſo juſtly, happily, and glorioufly governed the Common-wealth of* Lacedemon: *he anſwered, that they were firſt the Laws, & afterwards the Magiſtrates executing thoſe Lawes: for Law is the rule of Juſtice, and Juſtice the end of the Law, which indeed is the Life of all.*

The ready way to rectifie abuſes about Cloathing, were to compare them with the rules of the Law provided for them, for which there is Law, (and new Laws where they are wanting) nevertheleſs holds not in all points. For inſtance, the Law empowers the Merchants and Drapers to be their own Searchers, and to puniſh the Cloathiers Purſe, as they find his works to be faulty; and ſo they do, to the no ſmall grief of the Cloathier: but the Retayling-Buyer is not hereby at all relieved; the Draper ſelling to him theſe faults, for which he was before paid by the Cloathier; the Merchants do the ſame, by cauſing their Cloathiers to bring their Manufactures into the Merchants private Ware-Houſes, where their own Servants are Judges, who upon ſearching the Cloath, do make, and marke faults enough, for which they have reparable abatements; but themſelves again do practiſe all fraudulent wayes they can to barter and exchange thoſe faults away, without giving any allowance for them. I ſpeak not of all but ſome; and though ſometimes they be detected, yet find they means to ſave their purſes, whilſt their Nation ſuffers in honour, and the Laws are vilified to Foreiners, who ſtain the Juſtice of the Nation with weakneſs and fraud. True it is, that in the *Netherlands*, where their cunning is as piercing, as their practice is common, they (even every buyer) do ſearch with diligence, and make themſelves reparations, firſt to the Merchants great loſs, and ſo in courſe to the Cloathiers no ſmall dammage: But in all this, the State remains much diſhonoured by the ſcandal, and rob'd of thoſe Fines which the Lawes

in punnishment, do give to the publick Revenue, which if they were rightly and legally attended, would render a vast gain to the Common-wealth by a general Reformation.

Now in finding out the causes why Manufacture in Cloathing becomes so abused, there may be good use of the Drapers and Merchants knowledg and skill; yet the application of the remedy is a work of State and Policy, in making and executing the Laws proportionable to the grievance, in which instance it doth not hold; for though the Merchants and Drapers be able Searchers of the abuses, yet they are not competent reformers of the grievances, because they are interested in participating of those gaines which the faults occasion and intend. Therefore it is requisite that both Cloathiers, Merchants, and Drapers, may be joyned by the Magistrates approbation,

Nor is this all the abuse; for in such parts of the world as the Buyers are not in ability of knowledg, like the *Dutch*, who make Cloaths themselves, and especially in those parts where the difference in Religion is so great, as it is between Christians and Turks, there the corrupt Merchant causeth the Name of God to be Blasphemed: for when those people; (whose eye and judgment gives them not so good information as doth their proof and wearing) do find themselves cheated in their Garments, they presently conclude that there is no fear of God in that place, nor obedience to their Rulers, for Conscience, which must assuredly procure much scandal to Christian Religion.

It hath been noted that the original of money, was from sheep, affirming that the Antient Signature upon money, was a Sheep; and its further observed, that Mercandizes were the cause of money; and there being no greater Merchandize than are from the Sheep, it is evident, that there is nothing more requisite towards the enriching this Nation (whose peculiar blessing rests in Sheep) than strictly to hold the Manufactures to the letter and rule provided for their just making; and that the Laws be unpartially executed; and it being apparent that this Nation cannot be rich without a constant utterance of Cloathing, nor can that be done without a perfect reformation in the particulars of the works.

It doth undeniably follow, that Cloathing must be purged from

from its Corruption, or *England* muſt be poor. It is therefore the Manufactors which abuſe the Wool, and thereby improvidently give advantage to the *Dutch*: whereas a perfection in the making of Cloaths in *England*, will capacitate the *Engliſh* to underſel the *Dutch*.

Now for a true Reformation and Regulation of thoſe dammages that have befallen *England*, by the falſe and deceptious Manufacturing of Wools, and to bring the Trade to its primitive worth; we muſt rightly underſtand the cauſe of thoſe defects, or elſe we can never preſcribe ſuitable remedies as before, but the contrary; the ſuppoſed remedy will be worſe than the diſeaſe. The principle or grand cauſe of all our miſery, in all theſe things formerly ſpoken to both in Tranſportation of Wool, and the bad Manufacturing thereof, is by that diviſion in Trade, both in Merchant and Cloathier, by which meanes it falls out that by the conſequence of one mans ſingle Act, a thouſand perſons may be undone; this I have obſerved in ſeveral perſons in this Kingdome, and I know no way ſo profitable to prevent (at leaſt ſome of that miſchief) as by incorporating the Manufactures, and faithfulneſs therein; as witneſs *Norwich*, and *Colcheſter*; the miſery is the liberty, taken in that which is of neceſſity a Union, as before by a Law, and more liberty by a Law for ſome in matters of Conſcience, for compulſion can never make that unity as the Law of that Relation doth require, in this as in all others things, *to do to others, as we would have others do unto us*, which is the Royal Law of Heaven) The great and main inducement to theſe two things, as good reaſon (if we will have Trade) to obſerve the *Dutch* in both theſe things, as not the leaſt cauſe of their riches, (having nothing of their own growth comparatively with *England*,) yet are a Rich people, and much by our Commodities, whilſt we are diſputing whether it be good for us: And I cannot paſs by what I have heard of the Follies of the *Indians*, that will part with a rich Treaſure for a Trifle; ſo we are to the *Dutch* and *French* by their policies and circumventing practices, which draw from us, and ſtill covet to exhauſt the Wealth and Coyne of this Kingdome, and ſo with one Commodity (as formerly the Wool) to weaken us, and finally

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beat us out of our Trades in other Countreys, and thus they do (especially the *Dutch*) more fully obtain their purposes by their convenient priviledges, and settled constitutions, by which they draw multitudes of Merchants to Trade with them, and many other Nations to inhabit amongst them, which makes them populous: and there they make Store-Houses of all Forein Commodities, wherewith upon every occasion of Scarcity and Dearth, they are able to furnish Foreiners with plenty of those Commodities, which before in time of plenty they Engrossed & brought home from the same places; which doth greatly augment Power and Treasure to their Stocks, besides the Common Good in setting the Poor on work, as in several particulars mentioned by Mr. *Child*.

1. *By having in their greatest Councils of State and Warr, Tradeing Merchants that have lived abroad in most parts of the world, who have not only the Theoretical knowledg, but the Practical Experience of Trade; by whom Laws & Orders are contrived, and Peace with Forein Princes projected, to the great advantage of their Trade.*

2. *Their Law of* Gavel-kind, *whereby all their Children possess an equal share of their Fathers Estates after their Decease, and so are not left to wrastle with the World in their Youth, with inconsiderable assistance of Fortune, as most of our youngest Sons of Gentlemen in* England *are, who are bound Apprentices to Merchants.*

3. *Their exact making of all their Native Commodities.*

4. *Their giving great encouragement and immunities to the inventors of new Manufactures, and the discoverers of any new Mysteries in Trade, and to those that shall bring the Commodities of other Nations first in use and practice amongst them, for which the Author never goes without his due reward allowed him at the publick charge.*

5. *Their contriving and building of great Ships to sayle with small charge, not above one third of what we are at for Ships of the same burthen in* England. *And compelling their said Ships (being of small force) to sayle alwayes in Fleets, to which in all time of danger they allow a Convoy.*

6. *Their*

6. *Their parcimonious and thrifty living, which is ſo extraordinary, that a Merchant of one hundred thouſand pound Eſtate with them, will ſcarce ſpend ſo much* per annum, *as one of fifteen hundred pounds Eſtate in* London.

7. *The Education of their Children, as well Daughters as Sons, all which, be they of never ſo great quality or Eſtate, they always take care to bring up to write perfect good hands, and to have the full knowledge and uſe of Arithmetick and Merchants Accounts.*

8. *The lowneſs of their Cuſtoms, and the height of their Exciſe: which is certainly the moſt equal and indifferent Tax in the world, and leaſt prejudicial to any people, as might be made appear, were it the ſubject of this diſcourſe.*

9. *The careful providing for, and imployment of their poor: which it is eaſie to demonſtrate, can never be done in* England *comparitively to what it is with them, while it's left to the care of every Pariſh to look after their own only.*

10. *Their uſe of Banks, which are of ſo immenſe advantage to them, that ſome, (not without good grounds,) have eſtimated the profit of them to the publick, to amount to, at leaſt one Million of pounds Sterling,* per annum.

11. *Their toleration of different opinions in matters of Religion, by reaſon whereof, many induſtrious people of other Countreys, that diſſent from the eſtabliſhed Government of their own Churches, reſort to them with their Families and Eſtates, and after a few years co-habitation with them, become of the ſame Common Intereſt.*

12. *Their Law-Merchants, by which all controverſies between Merchants and Tradeſmen are decided in three or four dayes time, and that not at the fortieth part (I might ſay in many caſes not the hundreth part) of the Charge they are with us.*

13. *The Law that is in uſe among them for Transference of Bills for debt from one man to another.*

14. *Their keeping up publick Regiſters of all Land, and Houſes Sold or Mortgaged; whereby many chargeable Law-Suits are prevented, and the ſecurities of Lands and Houſes rendered indeed, ſuch as we commonly call them Real Securities.*

15. *The lowneſs of Intereſt of money with them, which in peaceable times exceeds not three* per cent. per annum. To

To Conclude with a ſhort Survey of thoſe things in General, ſeeing my time will not permit to enlarge upon it particularly (according to my purpoſe) nor ſo to Correct the former Papers for want of time, being expoſed to much Travel, I muſt humbly beg the Readers pardon for ſome Errors paſſing the Preſs in my abſence.

The firſt thing obſerved in the *Dutch*, is to have experienc'd perſons in all Councels skil'd, as WelPractical, as Theoretical knowledge, which is without all peradventure of ſuch advantage, that nothing but experience of it can put the value.

The ſecond I ſhall not touch.

The third I have at large toeated (*viz.*) of the advantage in exactneſs in all Commodities, of which we have ſufficient experience at home as well as abroad, that one and the ſame Commodity for goodneſs, yet if one have the reputation more than the other, it ſhall not only have a quick Market, but ſhall yield 10 or 15 *per cent*, more than the other. I ſpeak this of what is matter of Fact in the woollenManufacture in my own knowledge

The fourth is the Incouragement to thoſe that are any way beneficial to the Publick, which is contrary in *England* to its ſhame, as well as to its apparent Loſſe; hence it is that thoſe perſons that are imployed in publick affairs, that have not principles of honeſty, are liable to thoſe temptations of Bribery and indirance, being beyond my ſpeare.

Time permits me not to make any further recapitulation. But for my Language in the whole, the Ingenuous peruſer will, I truſt, rather value my ſerious Intentions (while I write no matter of Controverſy, but what may redound to the Honour and Advantage of his Majeſty and Kingdoms) than criticize upon my defect of Scholaſtick phraſe, or Logical method; who being never enriched with opportunities of education thereto, yet have ſo much of a Chriſtian and true Engliſh-man, as to wiſh every Reader Happineſs both here and hereafter. *FINIS.*

ERRATA.

Page 2, *l*, 15, for Land *r*, Band; *p*, 5, *l*, 27, for is *r*, by; *p*, 10, *l*, 16, inſert Advantage of a; *p*, 14, *l*, 18, for you *r*, them; *p*, 19, *l*. 15. for Regal *r*, real; *l*, 28, for hiaſelf himſelf; *p*, 21, *l*, 8, for then *r*, there; *l*, 15, for bond be given that none be ſold to Foreiners *r*, Bank; *l*, 25, for Bond, Bank; *p*, 24, *l*, 7, for Drapers *r*, Draperies; *p*, 25, *l*, 15, for Manufactures *r*, Manufactors.

Some Collections of Sir Walter Rawleys *presented to King* JAMES, *taken out of his* Remains, *discovering* Englands *loss for want of due Improvement of its Native Commodities.*

May it please Your Most Excellent Majesty,

ACcording to my duty I am imboldned to put your Majesty in mind, that about fourteen or fifteen years past, I presented you a Book of such extraordinary importance, for honour and profit of your Majesty and Posterity; and doubting that it hath been laid aside, and not considered of, I am encouraged, under your Majesties Pardon, to present unto you one more, consisting of five Propositions; neither are they grounded upon vain or idle grounds, but upon the fruition of those wonderful blessings wherewith God hath endued your Majesties Sea and Land, by which means you may not onely enrich and fill your Coffers, but also increase such might and strength as shall appear, if it may stand with your Majesties good liking to put the same in execution, in the true and right form; so that there is no doubt but it will make you in short time a Prince of such Power, so great, as shall make all the Princes your Neighbours as well glad of your Friendship, as fearful to offend you; that this is so, I humbly desire that your Majesty will vouchsafe to peruse this advertisement with that care and judgement which God hath given you.

Most humbly praying your Majesty, that whereas I presented

theſe five Propoſitions together, as in their own natures joyntly depending one of another, and ſo linked together, as the diſtraction of any one will be an apparent maim and diſabling to the reſt; that your Majeſty would be pleaſed that they may not be ſeparated, but all handled together joyntly and ſeverally by Commiſſioners with as much ſpeed and ſecrecy as can be, and made fit to be reported to your Majeſty; whereby I may be the better able to perform to your Highneſs, that which I have promiſed, and will perform upon my life, if I be not prevented by ſome that may ſeek to hinder the honour and profit of your Majeſty for their own private ends.

The true ground-courſe and form herein mentioned, ſhall appear how other Countries make themſelves Powerful and rich in all kind, by Merchandize, Manufactury and fulneſs of Trade, having no commodities in their own Countrey growing to do it withall.

And herein likewiſe ſhall appear how eaſie it is to draw the Wealth and Strength of other Countreys to your Kingdom, and what Royal, rich and plentiful means God hath given this Land to do it, which cannot be denyed, for ſupport of Traffick and continual imployment of your people, for repleniſhing of your Majeſties Coffers; and if I were not fully aſſured to improve your Native commodities, with other Traffick, three millions of pounds more yearly then now they are, and to bring not onely to your Majeſties Coffers within the ſpace of two or three yours near two millions of pounds, but to increaſe your Revenues many thouſands yearly, and to pleaſe and greatly profit your people, I would not have undertaken ſo great a work; all which will grow by advancement of all kind of Merchandizing to the utmoſt, thereby to bring Manufactory into the Kingdom, and to ſet on work all ſorts of people in the Realm, as other Nations do, which raiſe their greatneſs by the abundance of your Native commodities, whilſt we are parling and diſputing whether it be good for us or not.

May it please Your Most Excellent Majesty,

I Have diligently in my travels observed how the Countreys herein mentioned do grow Potent with abundance of all things to serve themselves and other Nations, where nothing groweth, and that their never-dried Fountains of Wealth, by which they raise their Estate to such an admirable height, as that they are at this day even a wonder to the world, proceedeth from your Majesties Sea and Lands.

I thus moved, began to dive into the depth of their Pollicies and circumventing practises, whereby they drain and still covet to exhaust the Wealth and Coyn of this Kingdom, and so with our own Commodities to weaken us, and finally beat us quite out of Trading in other Countreys; I found that they more fully obtained these their purposes, by their convenient Priviledges and setled Constitutions, than *England* with all the *Law* and superabundance of home bred Commodities which God hath vouchsafed your Sea and Land. And these, and other mentioned in this Book, are the urgent causes that provoked me, in my love and bounden duty to your Majesty and my Countrey, to address my former Books to your Princely hands and consideration.

By which priviledges they draw multitudes of Merchants to trade with them, and many other Nations to inhabit amongst them, which makes them populous; and there they make Storehouses of all Forreign commodities, wherewith, upon every occasion of scarcity and dearth, they are able to furnish Forreign Countries with plenty of those Commodities, which before in time of plenty they engrossed, and brought home from the same places; which doth greatly augment Power and Treasure to their State, besides the common good in setting their poor people on work; to which privilegdes they add smallness of Custom, and liberty of Trade, which maketh them flourish, and their Countrey so plentyfull of all kind of Coyne and commodities, where little or nothing groweth, and their Merchants so flourish, that when a loss cometh they scarce feell it; to bring

this to paſs, they have many advantages of us: the ones by their faſhioned Ships called *Boyers*, *Hoybatks*, *Hoyes*, and others that are made to hold great bulk of Merchandize, and to ſail with a few men for pront: For example, though an *Engliſh* Ship of two hundred tun, and a *Holland* Ship, or any other of the petty States of the ſame burthen be at *Danſke*, or any other place beyond the Seas, or in *England*, they do ſerve the Merchant better cheap, by one hundred pounds in his fraight than we can, by reaſon he hath but nine or ten Marriners, and we near thirty; thus he ſaveth twenty mens meat and wages in a voyage, and ſo in all other their Ships according to their burden, by which means they are fraighted whereſoever they come to great profit, whileſt our Ships lye ſtill and decay, or go to *Newcaſtle* for Coals.

Of this their ſmallneſs of Cuſtom inwards and outwards we have dayly experience, for if two *Engliſh* Ships, or two of any other Nation be at *Burdeaux*, both laden with Wine of three hundred tuns a piece, the one bound for *Holland*, or any other petty States, the other for *England*, the Marchant ſhall pay about nine hundred pounds cuſtom here, and other duties; when the other in *Holland*, or any other petty States ſhall be cleared for leſs then fifty pounds, and ſo in all other Wares and Merchandizes accordingly, which draws all Nations to Traffick with them, and although it ſeems but ſmall duties which they receive, yet the multitudes of all kind of Commodities and Coyn that is brought there by themſelves and others, and carryed out by themſelves and others, is ſo great, that they receive more cuſtome and duties to the State, by the greatneſs of their Commerce in one year, then *England* doth in two years; for the one hundreth part of Commodities are not ſpent in *Holland*, but vented into other Countries, which maketh all the Countrey-Merchants to buy and ſell, and increaſe Ships and Marriners to tranſport them.

My Travels and meaning is not to diminiſh (neither hath been) your Majeſties Revenues, but exceeding to encreaſe them, as ſhall appear, and yet pleaſe the people as in other parts they do, notwithſtanding their Exciſes, bring them in great Revenues, yet

yet whosoever will adventure to *Burdeaux* but for six tuns of Wine shall be free of Excise in his own house all the year long; and this is done of purpose to animate and increase Merchants in their Countrey.

And if it happen that a Trade be stopped by any Forreign Nation, which they heretofore usually had, or hear of any good Trading which they never had, they will hinder others, and seek either by favour, money, or force, to open the gap of Traffick for advancement of Trade amongst themselves, and imployment of their people; and when there is a new course or Trade erected, they give free Custom inwards and outwards, for the beter maintenance of Navigation, and encouragement of the people to that business.

Thus they and others glean the Wealth and Strength from us to themselves, and these reasons following procure them this advantage from us:

1. *The Merchant Staplers, which make all things in abundance; by reason of their Store-houses continually replenished with all kind of Commodities.*

2. *The liberty of free Traffick for Strangers to buy and sell in* Holland, *and other Contries and States, as if they were free-born, maketh great intercourse.*

3. *The small duties levied upon Merchants, draws all Nations to trade with them.*

4. *Their fashioned Ships continually fraighted before ours, by reason of their few Marriners, and great Bulk, serving the Merchant cheap.*

5. *Their forwardness to further all manner of Trading.*

6. *Their wonderful imployment of their Busses for Fishing, and the great returns they make.*

7. *Their giving free Custom inwards and outwards for any new erected Trade, by means whereof they have gotten already almost the sole Trade into their hands.*

All Nations may buy and sell freely in *France*, and there is free custom outwards twice or thrice a year, at which time our Merchants themselves do make their sales of *English* Commodities, and do buy and lade their bulk with French commodities

dities to serve for the whole year; and in *Rochell*, in *France*, and in *Brittain*, free Custom all the year long, except some small Toll, which makes great Traffick, and makes them flouriſh.

In *Denmark*, to encourage and inrich the Merchants, and to increaſe Ships and Marriners, free cuſtom all the year long for their own Merchants, except one moneth, between *Bartholomew-tide* and *Michaelmaſs*; the *Haunce-towns* have advantage of us, as *Holland* and other petty States have, and in moſt things imitate them, which makes them exceeding rich and plentyful of all kind of Commodities and Coyn; and ſo ſtrong in Ships and Marriners, that ſome of their Towns have near one thouſand ſail of Ships.

The Marchandizes of *France*, *Portugal*, *Spain*, *Italy*, *Turkey*, *Eaſt* and *Weſt-Indies*, are tranſported moſt by the *Hollanders* and other petty States into the Eaſt and North-eaſt Kingdom of *Pomerland*, *Spruceland*, *Poland*, *Denmark*, *Swedeland*, *Leifland* and *Germany*; and the Merchandizes brought from the laſt mentioned Kingdoms being wonderful many, are likewiſe by the *Hollanders* and other petty States moſt tranſported into the Southern and Weſtern Dominions; and yet the ſituation of *England* lyeth far better for a Store-houſe to ſerve the Southern, Eaſt, and North-Eaſt Regions, then theirs doth, and hath far better means to do it, if we will bend our courſe for it.

No ſooner a dearth of Fiſh, Wine, or Corn here, and other Merchandize, but forthwith the *Embdeners*, *Hamburgers* and *Hollanders*, out of their Store-houſe, lade fifty or one hundred Ships or more, diſperſing themſelves round about this Kingdom, and carry away great ſtore of Coyn and Wealth for little commodity, in thoſe times of dearth; by which means they ſuck our Common-wealth of their Riches, cut down our Merchants, and decay our Navigation, not with their natural Commodities which grow in their own Countries, but the Merchandizes of other Countries and Kingdoms; therefore it is far more eaſier to ſerve our ſelves, hold up our Merchants, and increaſe our Ships and Marriners, and ſtrengthen the Kingdom, and not onely keep our money in our own Realm, which other Nations

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ſtill robb us of, but bring in theirs who carry ours away, and make the bank of Coyn and Store-houſe to ſerve other Nations, as well and far better cheap then they; *Amſterdam* is never without ſeaven hundred thouſand quarters of Corn, beſides the plenty they dayly vent; and none of this growth in their own Countrey; a dearth in *England*, *France*, *Spain*, *Italy*, *Portugal*, and other places, is truly obſerved to inrich *Holland* ſeaven years after, and likewiſe the petty States; for example, the laſt dearth ſix year paſt, the *Hamburgers*, *Embdeners*, and *Hollanders* out of their Store-houſes furniſhed this Kingdom, and from *Southhampton*, *Exeter* and *Briſtol*, in a year and a half carried away near two hundred thouſand pounds from theſe parts; onely then, what great quantity of Coyn was tranſported round about your Kingdom from every Port-town, and from your City of *London* and other Cities, cannot be eſteemed ſo little as two millions, to the great decay of your Kingdom, and impoveriſhing your people, diſcredit to the Company of Merchants, and diſhonour to the Land, that any Nation, that have no Corn in their own Countrey growing, ſhould ſerve this famous Kingdom, which God hath ſo inabled within it ſelf; they have a continual Trade into this Kingdom, with five or ſix hundred Ships yearly, with Merchandizes of other Countries and Kingdoms, and ſtore them up in Store-houſe here untill the prices riſe to their minds; and we trade not with fifty Ships into their Countrey in a year; and the ſaid number are about this Realm every Eaſtern wind, for the moſt part, to lade Coals and other Merchandizes, unleſs there be a ſcarcity, or dearth, or high prices; all Merchants do forbear that place where great Impoſitions are laid upon the Merchandize, and thoſe places ſlenderly ſhipped, ill ſerved, and at dear rates, and oftentimes in ſcarcity and want of imployment for the people; and thoſe petty States finding truly by experience, that ſmall duties impoſed upon Merchandize, draw all Traffick unto them, and free liberty for Strangers to buy and ſell doth make continual Mart; therefore what Exciſes or Impoſitions are laid upon the common people, yet they ſtill eaſe, uphold and maintain the Merchants by all poſſible means, of purpoſe to

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draw the wealth and ſtrength of Chriſtendom to themſelves; whereby it appeareth, though the duties be but ſmall, yet the cuſtoms for going out, and coming in, do ſo abound, that they increaſe their Revenues greatly, and make profit, plenty, and imployment of all ſorts by Sea and Land to ſerve themſelves and other Nations, as is admirable to behold; and likewiſe the great commerce which groweth by the ſame means, enableth the common people to bear their burthen laid upon them, and yet they grow rich by reaſon of the great commerce and trade occaſioned by their convenient Priviledges and comodious Conſtitutions.

There was an intercourſe of Traffick in *Genoa*, and there was the flower of Commerce, as appeareth by their ancient records, and their ſumptuous buildings; for all Nations trade with Merchandize to them.

And there was the Store-houſe of *Italy*, and other places; but after they had ſet a great cuſtom of 16. *per Cent.* all Nations left trading with them, which made them give themſelves wholly to uſury, and at this day we have not three Ships go there in a year; but to the contrary, the Duke of *Florence* builded *Ligorn*, and ſet ſmall cuſtom upon Merchandize, and gave them great and pleaſing Priviledges, which hath made a rich and ſtrong City, with a flouriſhing State. Furthermore, touching ſome particulars needful to be conſidered of, the mighty huge fiſhing that ever could be heard of in the World, is upon the coaſts of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*; but the great Fiſhery is in the Low-countries, and other petty States, wherewith they ſerve themſelves and all Chriſtendom, as it ſhall appear, in four Towns in the Eaſt Kingdoms within the *Sound*, *Quinsbrough*, *Elbing*, *Statten*, and *Dantzick*, there are carried and vented in a year between thirty and fourty thouſand laſt of Herrings ſold but at fifteen or ſixteen pounds the Laſt, is about 620000. and we none; beſides *Denmark*, *Norway*, *Sweden*, *Leifland*, *Ryga*, *Nevil*, the *Nerve*, and other Port-towns within the *Sound*, there is carried and vented above 10000. Laſt of Herrings ſold at fifteen or ſixteen pounds the laſt, is 170000. pounds more yearly; in ſuch requeſt are our Herring there, that they are often

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times ſold for 20, 24, 30, and 36. pounds the Laſt, and ſend not one barrel into all thoſe Eaſt-Countries. The *Hollanders* ſent into *Ruſſia* near fifteen hundred Laſt of Herrings, ſold about 30. ſhillings the barrel, amounteth to 27000. pounds, and we but about 20, or 30. Laſts; to *Stoad*, *Hambourgh*, *Breamen* and *Embden*, upon the River of *Elve*, *Weafer* and *Embs*, are carried and vented of Fiſh and Herrings about 6000. laſts, ſold about fifteen or ſixteen pounds the Laſt, is 100000. l. and we none; *Cleafland*, *Gulickland*, up the River of *Rhine*, to *Cullen*, *Frankford*, or the *Main*, and ſo over all *Germany*, is carried and vented Fiſh and Herrings, near 12000. ſold at 20. pounds the Laſt, is 44000 pound, and we none.

Up the River of *Maze* leight, *Maſtricht*, *Vendloo*, *Sutphen*, *Deventer*, *Campen*, *Swool*, and all over *Lukeland*, is carried and vented 7000. Laſt of Herrings, ſold at twenty pounds the Laſt, is 140000. pounds, and we none. To *Gilderland*, *Artois*, *Henault*, *Brabant*, *Flanders*, up the River of *Antwerpe*, all over the Arch-Dukes Countreys, are carried and vented between eight and nine thouſand laſts, ſold at 18. pounds the laſt, is 171000. pounds, and we none.

The *Hollanders*, and others, carried of all ſorts of Herrings to *Roan* onely in one year, beſides all other parts of *France*, 50000. laſt of Herrings, ſold at 20. pound the laſt, is 100000. pounds, and we not one hundred laſt thither; they are ſould oftentimes there for 20, and 24, and 30. pounds the laſt, between Chriſtmaſs and Lent, the duties for Fiſh and Herrings came to 15000. Crowns at *Roan* onely that year the late Queen deceaſed, Sir *Thomas Parrye* was Agent there then, and *S. Savors* his man knows it to be true, who handled the buſineſs for pulling down the Impoſitions; then what great ſums of money came to all in the Port-towns, to inrich the French Kings Coffers, and to all the Kings and States throughout Chriſtendom, to inrich their Coffers, beſides the great quantity vented to the *Straights*, and the multitude ſpent in the Low-Contries, which is there likewiſe ſould for many a hundred thouſand pounds more yearly, is neceſſary to be remembred, and the ſtream to be turned to the good of this Kingdom, to whoſe Sea-coaſts

God onely hath ſent and given theſe great bleſſings, and multitude of riches for us to take; However it hath been neglected, to the hurt of this Kingdom, that any Nation ſhould carry away out of this Kingdom yearly great maſſes of money for Fiſh taken in our Seas, and ſold again by them to us, which muſt needs be a great diſhonour to our Nation, and hindrance to this Realm; from any Port-Town of any Kingdom within Chriſtendom, the Bridgemaſters or the Wharfmaſters for twenty ſhillings a year, will deliver a true note of the number of laſts of Herrings brought to their Wharf, and their prices commonly they are ſould at; but the number brought to *Danske*, *Cullen*, *Rotterdam*, and *Enchuſen*, is ſo great, as it will coſt three, four, or five pounds for a true note, the abundance of Corn groweth in the Eaſt Kingdoms; but the great Store-houſes for grain to ſerve Chriſtendom, & the heathen Countries, in time of dearth is in the Low-countries, wherewith upon every occaſion of ſcarcity and dearth they do inrich themſelves ſeaven years after, imploy their people, and get great fraights for their Ships in other Countries, and we not one in that courſe; the mighty Vineyards and ſtore of Salt is in *France* and *Spain*, but the great Vintage and ſtaple of Salt is in the Low-countries, and they ſend near one thouſand ſail of Ships with Salt and Wine onely into the Eaſt Kingdoms yearly, beſides other places, and we not one in that courſe; the exceeding Groves of Wood are in the Eaſt Kingdoms; but the huge piles of Wainſcote, Clapboard, Fir, Deal, Maſts, and timber is in the Low-Countrys, where none grow, wherewith they ſerve themſelves and other parts, and this Kingdom with thoſe commodities; they have five or ſix hundred great long Ships continually uſing that Trade, we none in that courſe; the Wool, Cloth, Lead, Tin, and divers other commodities are in *England*, but by means of our Wooll and Cloth going out ruſſe, undreſt and undyed, there is an exceeding Manufactury and Drapery in the Low-Countries, wherewith they ſerve themſelves and other Nations, and advance greatly the imployment of the people at home, and Traffick abroad, and put down ours in Forreign parts where our Merchants trade unto, with our own commodities we ſend into the

the East Kingdoms yearly but one hundred Ships, and our Trade cheifly dependeth upon three towns, *Elbing*, *Kingsborough*, and *Danske*, for making our sails, and buying their Commodities sent into this Realm at dear rates, which this Kingdom bears the burthen of.

The Low-Contries send into the East Kingdoms yearly about three thousand Ships, trading into every City and Port-town, taking the advantage and venting their Commodities to exceeding profit, and buying and lading their Ships with plenty of those Commodities which they have from every of those Towns 20. *per Cent.* better cheap then we, by reason of the difference of the Coyn, and their Fish yields ready money; which greatly advanceth their Traffick, and dacayeth ours; they send into *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, from the East Kingdoms that passeth through the *Sound*, and through your narrow Seas yearly of the East-Country commodities about two thousand Ships, and we none in that course; they Trade into all Cities and Port-towns in *France*, and we cheifly into five or six; they Traffick into every City and Port-town round about this Land, with five or six hundred Ships yearly, and we cheifly but to three Towns in their Countrey, and but with fourty Ships, notwithstanding the Low Countries have as many Ships and Vessels as eleven Kingdoms of Christendom have, let *England* be one, and build every year near one thousand Ships, and not a Timber-Tree growing in their own Countrey; and that also all their home-bred commodities that grow in their Land in a year, less then one hundred good Ships are able to carry them away at one time, yet they handle the ma ter so for setting them all on work, that their Traffick with the *Haunce-Towns* exceeds in Shipping all Christendom. We have all things of our own in superabundance, to increase Traffick, and Timber to build Ships, and Commodities of our own to lade about one thousand Ships and Vessels at one time, besides the great Fishing; and as fast as they have made their voyages might re-lade again, and so year after year, all the year long to continue; yet our Ships and Marriners decline, and Traffick and Merchants dayly decay, the main bulks and mass of Herrings,

from whence they raiſe ſo many millions yearly that inrich other Kingdoms, Kings and States Coffers, and likewiſe their own people, proceedeth from your Seas and Lands; and the return of the Commodities and Coyn they bring home in exchange of Fiſh, and other commodities, are ſo huge, as would require a large diſcourſe apart; all the amends they make us, is, they beat us out of Trade in all parts, with our own commodities; for inſtance, we had a great Trade in *Ruſſia* about ſeventy years, and about fourteen years paſt we ſent ſtore of goodly Ships to Trade in thoſe parts, and three years paſt we ſet out but four, and this laſt year but two or three: but to the contrary, the *Hollanders* about twenty years ſince traded there with two Ships onely, yet now they are increaſed to about thirty or fourty, and one of their Ships is as great as two of ours, and at the ſame time (in their troubles there) that we decreaſe, they increaſed; and the Cheifeſt commodities they Carry with them thither, is Engliſh Cloth, Herrings taken in our Seas, Engliſh Lead, and Pewter made of our Tin, beſides other commodities, all which we may do beter then they; and although it be a cheap Country, the Trade very gainful, yet we have almoſt brought it to nought by diſorderly trading joynt-ſtock, and the Merchants banding themſelves one againſt the other, and ſo likewiſe we uſed to have 8. or 9. great Ships to go continually a Fiſhing to *Wardhouſe* and this year but one; and ſo *Per rato*, they out-go us in all kind of Fiſhing and Merchandizing in all Countries, by reaſon they ſpare no coſt, nor deny no Priviledges that may incourage advancement of Trade and Manufactury.

Now if it pleaſe, and with your Majeſties good liking ſtand, to take notice of theſe things, which I have conceived to be fit for your Majeſties conſideration, which in all humbleneſs, as duty bindeth me, I do tender unto your Majeſty for the unfeigned zeal I bear to the advancement of your honour and profit, and the general good of your ſubjects; it being apparent, that no three Kingdoms in Chriſtendom can compare with your Majeſty, for ſupport of Traffick, and continually imployment of your people within themſelves, having ſo many great meansboth by Sea and Land to inrich your Coffers, multiply your Navy, enlarge

enlarge your Traffick, make your Kingdoms Powerfull and your people rich.

Yet, through idleneſs, they are poor, wanting imployment, many of your Land and Coaſt-towns much ruinated, and your Kingdom in need of Coyn, your Shipping, Traffick and Marriners decayed, which your Majeſties Neighbour Princes without theſe means abound in Wealth, inlarge their Towns, increaſe their Shipping, Traffick, and Marriners, and find out ſuch imployment for their people, that they are all advantageous to their Common-wealth, onely by ordaining commodious Conſtitutions in Merchandizing, and fulneſs of Trade in Manufactury.

God hath bleſt your Majeſty with incomparable benefits: As with Copper, Lead, Iron, Tin, Allum, Copperas, Saffron, Fell, and divers other native Commodities, to the number of about one hundred, and other Manufacturies vendible, to the number of about a thouſand, as ſhall appear; beſides Corn, whereof great quantity of Beer is made, and moſt tranſported by Strangers; as alſo Wooll, whereof much is ſhipped forth unwrought into Cloth or Stuffs, and Cloth tranſported undreſt and undyed, which doth imploy and maintain near fifty thouſand people in Forreign parts; your Majeſties people wanting the imployment in *England*, many of them being inforced to live in great want, and ſeek it beyond Seas; Coals, which do imploy hundreds of ſtrangers ſhips yearly to tranſport them out of this Kingdom, whileſt we do not imploy twenty Ships in that courſe. Iron Ordnance, which is a Jewel of great value, far more then it is accounted, by reaſon that no other Countrey could ever attain unto it, although they have aſſayed with great charge; your Majeſty hath Timber of your own for building of Ships, and Commodities plenty to lade them, which Commodities other Nations want; yet your Majeſties people decline in Shipping, Traffick, and Mariners.

Theſe Inconveniences happen by three cauſes eſpecially;

1. *The unprofitable courſe of Merchandizing.*

2. *The want of courſe of full Manufacture of our Home-bred Commodities.*

3. *The*

3. *The undervaluing of our Coyns, contrary to the Rules of other Nations.*

For inſtance; The Merchant Adventurers by over-trading upon Credit, or with money taken up upon Exchange, whereby they loſe uſually ten or twelve, and ſometimes fifteen or ſixteen *per Cent.* are enforced to make ſale of their Cloths at under-rates, to keep their Credit, whereby Cloths being the Jewel of the Land, is undervalued, and the Merchant in ſhort time eaten out. The Merchants of *Ipſwich*, whoſe trade for *Elbing* is chiefly with fine Cloths, and ſome few ſorting Cloths, all dyed and dreſs'd within our Land, do for the moſt part buy their fine Cloths upon time; and by reaſon they go ſo much upon Credit, they are enforced, not being able to ſtand upon their Markets, to ſell, giving 15 or 18 months day of payment for their Cloths; and having ſold them, they then preſently ſell their Bills ſo taken for Cloth, allowing after the rate of fourteen or fifteen, and ſometimes twenty *per Cent.* which money they imploy forthwith in Wares at exceſſive prices, and loſe as much more that way, by that time their Wares be ſold at home: Thus by over-running themſelves upon Credit, they diſable themſelves and others, enhancing the prices of Foreign Commodities, and pulling down the rates of our own. The Weſt-Country Merchants, that trade with Cloths into *France* or *Spain*, do uſually imploy their Servants, young men of ſmall experience, who, by cunning combining of the *French* and *Spaniſh* Merchants, are ſo entrapped, that when all Cuſtom and Charges be accompted, their Maſters ſhall hardly receive their principal Moneys: As for returns out of *France*, their Silver and Gold is ſo highly rated, that our Merchants cannot bring it home but to great loſs; therefore the *French* Merchants ſet higher rates upon their Commodities, which we muſt buy dear, or let our moneys lye dead there a long time, untill we may conveniently imploy the ſame. The Northern Merchants of *York*, *Hull*, and *Newcaſtle*, trade only in white Kerzies, and coloured Dozzens; and every Merchant, be his Adventure never ſo ſmall, doth for the moſt part ſend over an unexperienced youth, unfit for Merchandizing, which bringeth

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to the Stranger great advantage, but to his Maſter and Commonwealth great hindrance; for they, before their Goods be landed, go to the Stranger and buy ſuch quantities of Iron, Flax, Corn, and other Commodities, as they are bound to lade their Ships withall, which Ships they engage themſelves to relade within three weeks, or a month, and do give the price the Merchant Stranger asketh, becauſe he gives them Credit, and lets them Ship away their Iron, Flax, and other Commodities, before they have ſold their Kerzies, and other Commodities, by which means extraordinary dear Commodities are returned into this Realm, and the Servants alſo enforced to ſell his Cloths under-foot, and oftentimes to loſs, to keep his Credit, and to make payment for the Goods before Shipped home, having ſome twenty dayes or a months reſpite to ſell the Cloths, and to give the Merchant ſatisfaction for his Iron, Flax, and other Wares, by which extremities our Home-bred Commodities are abaſed.

Touching Fiſhing.

THE great Sea-buſineſs of Fiſhing, doth imploy near twenty thouſand Ships and Veſſels, and four hundred thouſand people are imployed yearly upon your Coaſt of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, with ſixty Ships of War, which may prove dangerous.

The *Hollanders* only have about three thouſand Ships to Fiſh withall, and fifty thouſand people are imployed yearly by them upon your Majeſties Coaſts of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*.

Theſe three thouſand Fiſhing Ships and Veſſels of the *Hollanders*, do imploy neir nine thouſand other Ships and Veſſels, and one hundred and fifty thouſand perſons more by Sea and Land, to make proviſion to dreſs and tranſport the Fiſh they take, and return Commodities, whereby they are enabled, and do build yearly one thouſand Ships and Veſſels, having not one Timber Tree growing in their own Country, nor Home-bred Commodities to lade one hundred Ships, and yet they have twenty thouſand Ships and Veſſels, and all imployed.

King

King *Henry* the ſeventh, deſirous to make his Kingdoms powerfull and rich, by encreaſe of Ships and Mariners, and imployment of his people, ſent unto his Sea-Coaſt Towns, moving them to ſet up the great and rich Fiſhing, with promiſe to give them needfull Priviledges, and to furniſh them with Loans of money, if need were, to encourage them; yet his people were ſtick. Now ſince I have traced this buſineſs, and made mine endeavours known unto your Majeſty, your Noblemen, able Merchants, and others, (who having ſet down under their hands for more aſſurance) promiſed to diſburſe large ſums of money for the building up of this great and rich large Sea-City, which will encreaſe more ſtrength to your Land, give more comfort, and do more good to all your Cities and Towns, than all the Companies of your Kingdom, having fit and needfull Priviledges for the upholding and ſtrengthening of ſo weighty and needfull a buſineſs.

For example; twenty Buſſes built and put into a Sea-Coaſt Town, where there is not one Ship before, there muſt be to carry, re-carry, tranſport and make proviſion for one Buſſe, three Ships; likewiſe every Ships ſetting on work thirty ſeveral Trades and Occupations, and four hundred thouſand perſons by Sea and Land, in ſo much as three hundred perſons are not able to make one Fleet of Nets in four months for one Buſſe, which is no ſmall imployment.

Thus by twenty Buſſes are ſet on work near eight thouſand perſons by Sea and Land, and an encreaſe of above one thouſand Mariners, and a Fleet of eighty ſail of Ships to belong to one Town, where none were before, to take the wealth out of the Sea, to enrich and ſtrengthen the Land, only by raiſing of twenty Buſſes.

Then what good one thouſand or two thouſand will do, I leave to your Majeſties conſideration.

It is worthy to be noted, how neceſſary Fiſhermen are to the Commonwealth, and how needfull to be advanced and cheriſhed; (*Viz.*)

1. *For taking Gods bleſſing out of the Sea, to enrich the Realm, which otherwiſe we loſe.*

2. *For*

2. *For ſetting the people on Work.*

3. *For making plenty and cheapneſs in the Realm.*

4. *For encreaſing of Shipping to make the Land powerfull.*

5. *For a continual Nurſery for breeding and encreaſing our Mariners.*

6. *For making imployment of all ſorts of people, and blind, lame, and others by Sea and Land, from ten and twelve years, and upwards.*

7. *For enriching your Majeſties Coffers, for Merchandizes returned from other Countreys for Fiſh and Herrings.*

8. *For the encreaſe and enabling of Merchants, which now droop and daily decay.*

Touching the Coyn.

FOr the moſt part all Monarchies and Free-States, both Heathen and Chriſtian, as *Turkey*, *Barbary*, *France*, *Poland*, and others, do hold for a Rule of never-failing profit, to keep their Coyn at higher rates within their own Territories, than it is in other Kingdoms.

The cauſes:

1. *To preſerve the Coyn within their own Territories.*

2. *To bring unto themſelves the Coyn of Foreign Princes.*

3. *To enforce Merchant-Strangers to take their Commodities at high rates, which this Kingdom bears the burthen of.*

For inſtance; The King of *Barbary* perceiving the Trade of Chriſtian Merchants to encreaſe in this Kingdom, and that the returns out of his Kingdoms were moſt in Gold, whereby it was much enhanced, raiſed his Ducket (being then currant for three Ounces) to four, five, and ſix Ounces; nevertheleſs it was no more worth in *England*, being ſo raiſed, then when it went for three Ounces.

This Ducket currant for three Ounces in *Barbary*, was then worth in *England* ſeven ſhillings and ſix pence, and no more worth, being raiſed to ſix Ounces; ſince which (time adding to it a ſmall piece of Gold) he hath raiſed it to eight, and laſtly to ten Ounces, yet at this day it is worth but ten ſhillings

and one penny, notwithstanding your Majesties late raising of your Gold.

Having thus raised his Gold, he then devised to have plenty of Silver brought into his Kingdom, raised the Royal of Eight, being but two Ounces, to three and three-pence half-penny, which caused great plenty of Silver to be brought in, and to continue in his Kingdom.

FRANCE.

The *English Jacobus* goeth for three and twenty shillings in Merchandizing.

The *French* Crown for seven shillings and six pence.

Also the King hath raised his Silver four Sowce in the Crown.

NORTH-HOLLAND.

The double *Jacobus* goeth for three and twenty shillings sterling.

The *English* Shillings is there eleven Stivers, which is two shillings over in the pound.

POLAND.

The King of *Poland* raiseth his *Hungary* Ducket from 56. to 77. and ½ *Polish* groshes, and the Rix-Doller from 36. to 47 and ½ groshes, the Rix-Doller worth in *Poland* 47 and ½ groshes, is by account valued at 6 *s.* 4 *d.* sterling, and here in *England* is worth but 4 *s.* 7 *d.* The *Hungary* Ducket 77. is worth by account in *Poland* 10 *s.* 4 *d.* and in *England* is worth but 7 *s.* 10 *d.* The *Jacobus* of *England* here current for 22 *s.* in *Poland* 24 *s.* at the rate of 7 *s.* to 10 *d.* for the *Hungary* Ducket.

Now to turn the stream and riches raised by your Majesties Native Commodities, into the natural Channel from whence it hath been a long time diverted, may it please your Majesty to consider these Points following.

1. *Whether*

1. *Whether it be not fit that a State-Merchant be ſettled within your Dominions, which may both diſpoſe more profitably of the Riches thereof, and encounter Policies of Merchant-Strangers, who now go beyond us in all kind of profitable Merchandizing.*

2. *Whether it be not neceſſary that your Native Commodities ſhould receive their full Manufactury by your Subjects within your Dominions.*

3. *Whether it be not fit the Coals ſhould yield your Majeſty and Subjects a better value, by permitting them to paſs out of the Land, and that they be in your Subjects Shipping only tranſported.*

4. *Whether it be not fit your Majeſty preſently raiſe your Coyn to as high rates, as it is in the parts beyond the Seas.*

5. *Whether it be not neceſſary that the great Sea-buſineſs of Fiſhing, be forthwith ſet forward.*

If it pleaſe your Majeſty to approve of theſe Conſiderations, and accordingly to put them in a right courſe of execution, I aſſure my ſelf (by Gods help) in ſhort time your Majeſties Cuſtoms, and the continual coming into your Coffers, will be exceedingly encreaſed, your Ships and Mariners trebbled, your Land and Waſt-Towns (which are now run out of Gates) better repleniſhed, and your people imployed, to the great enriching and honour of your Kingdom, with the applauſe, and to the comfort of all your Loyal Subjects.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty, I have the rather undergone the pains to look into their Policies, becauſe I have heard them profeſs, they hoped to get the whole Trade and Shipping of Chriſtendom into their own hands, as well for Tranſportation, as otherwiſe for the Command and Maſter of the Seas; to which end I find that they do daily encreaſe their Traffick, augmenting their Shipping, multiplying their Mariners, Strength and Wealth in all kinds; whereat I have grieved the more, when I conſidered how God hath endued theſe Kingdoms above any three Kingdoms in Chriſtendom, with divers varieties of Home-bred Commodities, which others have not, and cannot want; and endued us with ſundry other means, to continue and maintain Trade of Merchandizing and Fiſhing beyond them all, whereby we might prevent the deceivers, en-

groſs the Commodities of the Engroſſers, inrich our ſelves, and increaſe our Navigation, Shipping, and Mariners; ſo as it would make all Nations to vail the Bonnet to *England*, if we would not be ſtill wanting to our ſelves in imployment of our people; which people being divided into three parts, two parts of them are meet ſpenders and conſumers of a Commonwealth, therefore I aim at theſe Points following.

To allure and encourage the people for their private gain, to be all Workers and Erectors of a Commonwealth.

To inrich and fill your Majeſties Coffers, by a continual coming in, and make your people wealthy, by means of their great and profitable Trading and imployment.

To vent our Home-bred Commodities, to far more reputation, and much more profit to the King, the Merchant, and the Kingdom.

To return the Merchandizes of other Countreys at far cheaper rates than now they are, to the great good of the Realm in general.

To make the Land powerfull, by increaſing of Ships and Mariners.

To make your peoples takings in general, to be much more every day than now they are, which by Gods help will grow continually more and more, by the great Concourſe and Commerce that will come by ſettled Conſtitutions, and convenient Priviledges, as in other parts they do by this their great freedom of Trade.

All this, and much more, is done in other Countreys, where nothing groweth, ſo that of nothing they make great things. Then how much more mighty things might we make, where ſo great abundance and variety of Home-bred Commodities, and rich Materials grows, for your people to Work upon, and other plentifull means to do that withall, which other Nations neither have, nor cannot want, but of neceſſity muſt be furniſhed from hence: And now whereas our Merchandizing is wilde, utterly confuſed, and out of frame, as at large appeareth, a State-Merchant will roundly and effectually bring all the premiſſes to paſs, fill your Havens with Ships, thoſe Ships with Mariners,

Mariners, your Kingdom full of Merchants, their houſes full of Outlandiſh Commodities, and your Coffers full of Coyn, as in other parts they do; and your people ſhall have juſt cauſe to hold in happy memory, that your Majeſty was the beginner of ſo profitable, praiſe-worthy, and renowned a Work, being the true Philoſophers-Stone to make your Majeſty a rich and potent King, and your Subjects happy people, only by ſettling of a State-Merchant, whereby your people may have fulneſs of Trade and Manufactury, and yet hold both honourable and profitable Government, without breaking of Companies.

And for that in the ſettling of ſo weighty a buſineſs, many things of great conſequence muſt neceſſarily fall into conſideration, I humbly pray that your Majeſty may be pleaſed, (for the bringing of this great Service to light) to give me leave to nominate the Commiſſioners, and your Majeſty to give them power to call before them ſuch men as they ſhall think fit, to conferr with upon Oath, or otherwiſe as occaſion ſhall offer, that the ſaid Commiſſioners with all ſpeed, for the better advancement of this honourable and profitable Work, may prepare and report the ſame unto your Majeſty.

Having at large treated about the damage it is to England, *about the Non-improvement of the Native Commodities, it is requiſite to adde ſomething about the Hands to be imployed therein.*

THE Manufactors of Wool, (with many other Tradeſmen) many of them that are conſcientious in their Imployments, lye under heavy diſcouragements, not having aſſurance of Liberty in the matters of Worſhip; hence many tranſplanted themſelves into *Holland* about the year 35. to the great advantage of the *Dutch*; and of late times many others, both of Merchants and Clothiers, (by the ſeverity uſed in that matter of Worſhip alone) have conſulted, and were preparing to tranſplant themſelves, had not that Indulgence his Majeſty hath been pleaſed to exerciſe, prevented; for what perſon that can raiſe a Trade, and live as well in another Countrey, being here not ſecured in the matter of his Conſcience, without which

he

he cannot have the benefit of his Imployment, will either ſtay to his hazard, or if he do, can he be ſo profitable (while he ſtays in fears) either to himſelf, his Countrey, or his Majeſty, as otherwiſe he might be? Many alſo there are that for reaſons of this kind, are neceſſitated to lay down, or draw their Trades into a narrower compaſs, who have formerly been conſiderable Benefactors to their Countrey, ſome of them having hundreds, ſome a thouſand depending on them, whoſe livelihood ſtands or falls, with their Liberty or Impriſonment.

Moreover I have obſerved, that many of his Majeſties Subjects, (of whoſe fidelity I have ſufficient experience) have by ſome perſons been greatly miſ-repreſented, which is a matter of no ſmall moment; by this means 'tis plain, ſuch perſons have been the occaſion of many groundleſs offences, jealouſies and murmurings, (with great coſt, charge, and undoing of many Tradeſmen) which are of very evil conſequence, concerning which I have endeavoured to my power to undeceive his Majeſties Subjects, and of which I ſhall be ready to give further accompt. But by the working of jealouſies and animoſities of this kind, Trade is very much obſtructed and decayed; For if one particular perſon, upon miſ-repreſentation, be but proſecuted, that hath ſo many hundreds depending upon him, *Firſt*, Thoſe perſons are undone, and come to ruine; nor is that all, but *2ly*. This begets jealouſie and murmurings in all thoſe concern'd, and the ſame with farther fears on all perſons lyable to ſuffering upon the ſame ground, as far as the report thereof goes: Thus is Trade, quietneſs and confidence prejudic'd, for want of aſſurance in that point of Liberty, *&c.*

From the whole, theſe neceſſary Concluſions may be drawn;

1. *That it is neceſſary for the good of his Majeſty and People, to ſecure the Wool in* England (*being the matter or foundation of ſuch a rich Manufacture to work upon*) *by effectual Laws, and faithfulneſs in the execution.*

2. *The regulation of the Manufacturies thereof be conſulted for Reformation.*

3. *If yet the hands of many, and the chief of thoſe perſons capable of managing the Manufacturies thereof be weakened, for want*

want of assurance in that tender point of conscience, and so consequently they withdraw their Stocks and Trade not to half the height they would, for fear they should suddenly be exposed to remove into other Countries, or do worse, (which is still much feared by some) if in this they be not eas'd, the Trade of this Nation can never be compleated, nor brought to its primitive lustre and glory.

My observation upon his Majesties Speech to the Parliament, in the year 1667. including some indulgence to his Majesties Protestant Subjects, did much quicken Trade in all the Nation; insomuch that severall thence took encouragement (that before had been contracting their Trades) to begin to lay out themselves and Estates to raise up Manufactury, expecting a full concurrance by the Parliament: But when the same persons saw themselves disappointed therein, they forthwith took up thoughts of retiring themselves, and withdrew their Trade, which was then much to my own particular damage, depending upon those persons then in dealings, and yet these are persons, to my knowledge, very loyal to his Majesty.

I cannot understand what persons have advantage by his Majesties great damage, and the Kingdomes so great impoverishment, as I have demonstrated; or why those persons, be they what they will, upon such very costly terms (to say no more) should be gratified; neither have the Councels and ends propounded by the chief Agents and Factors of that severity, been successfull either in bringing forth that which may countervail these losses, or decrease the number, or alter the nature of them, that alone for conscience they should suppress; but rather provokes many that before concern'd not themselves by proceeds of that kind, against men peaceable and so beneficial in their Stations, to examine the causes for which they are exposed to suffer; which also prevails with many to a participation with them: nor can what they would have, be done to those they would suppress, in places depending much upon these Trades, without almost desolating many parts of his Majesties Kingdomes; for should so many be removed that imployed so many poor, those Tradesmen that remain would not be able to manage

manage Trade sufficient to set on work the poor, for their Stocks would not reach thereunto; how fearfull then is that which must unavoidably follow?

Suffer one word more of my knowledge in this business, as to matter of fact, in a small Parish where I was born, where there is 15. Cloathiers, or thereabouts; of those 15. there is 12. dissenters in matters of worship, which I know are as to the Government as peaceable as any: and in another little Cloathing-Town there is 24. Cloathiers; amongst those 24. 20. are dissenters: and by this measure I might go through most parts of the West of *England*, viz. *Hampshire*, *Wilts*, *Dorset*, *Devon*, *Sommerset*, *Glocestershire*, and part of *Monmouthshire* in *Wales*: most of all those said Counties I have traded with, and am therefore experienced in what I say. Now suppose that those Laws (now and formerly in force against such persons,) should have been rigorously executed, what would have been the consequence: To give instance, the Case of but one Man, *Thomas Pearce* of *Westdome* in *Devonshire*, near *Barnstable*, who was prosecuted upon the 20th. Moneth, and had 15. Servants in his own House, besides many Parishes depending upon him; yet was forc't to leave his Calling and Habitation about 3. or 4. years since, to the utter ruine of those persons so depending, till he was releas'd: And many other such instances might be given; for it must necessarily follow, when a Tradesman that imploys a great part of a Countrey, is violently and suddenly run down and oppress, so as his Trade must fail, that the Countrey must suffer with him; for what sober person will step into his place, and take up his Trade, while he is for such Causes suffering, if men to fill up such vacancies were to be found.

FINIS.

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